

**FREE
INSIDE:**

LEAGUE LADDERS

**IN FULL
COLOUR**

Plus first sets of team-tabs

SHOOT!

15p

27th AUGUST, 1977

**START
OF
SEASON
ISSUE**

Ipswich Town and England
striker Paul Mariner (blue shirt)
gets the better of Newcastle
United's Ray Blackhall on this
occasion.

STAR WRITERS

RAY CLEMENCE/ANDY GRAY

GORDON HILL/JOHN GREIG

DOUBLE-PAGE ENGLAND TEAM GROUP

The ever-changing soccer scene

THE MOST fascinating thing about football is no two seasons are ever alike. Rarely do events repeat themselves. The soccer scene is ever-changing. Teams that seem destined to do well and finish covered in glory can struggle to survive, while those regarded as also-rans surprisingly burst into contention for the honours.

The new season now upon us in England poses questions that involve clubs across the whole spectrum, from First Division long-servers Arsenal to newly-elected Wimbledon in the Fourth Division.

Can Liverpool — League Championship and European Cup double-winners — go one better in 1977-78 and realise that elusive impossible dream by doing the treble?

Or will the spell the Merseyside magicians have cast over the past decade be broken by teams such as Manchester United who denied them last season's F.A. Cup; Manchester City, reinforced by Mike Channon; Ipswich Town, who have so long flattered to deceive; or an Aston Villa astutely strengthened by their ultra-professional boss, Ron Saunders?

And who will emerge as this season's "surprise" team — the one that sensationally thrusts through?

Can a young Chelsea, led by star-of-the-future Ray Wilkins, establish themselves in the First and attract the revenue that will remove the financial shadow thrown by their multi-million pound development at Stamford Bridge?

Will relegation-sufferers such as Sunderland, Plymouth and Northampton recapture their lost status? Can the teams who have so narrowly missed out on promotion several times — Bolton, for one — at last reap their just reward?

In Scotland, who began their League programme last week, will the stranglehold imposed by the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers be prised open at last by the likes of Hibs, Aberdeen or Dundee United?

Can relegated Hearts rejoin the elite top ten?

Last season, with the exception of Liverpool and Q.P.R. — who reached the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup — the performances of the other British clubs in Europe were a disgrace. So many crashed in the opening rounds.

Can Britain regain her once-dominant position in the Continental Cups?

I could fill this issue of SHOOT with questions and still not cover every intriguing aspect of the present campaign.

But we've made a start to our coverage by compiling a wide variety of features to set the scene.

And the first is a preview of those start-of-the-season fixtures in the Football League which have that extra-special flavour to sharpen the appetites of players and matchgoers.

An invaluable aid to our readers are the League Ladders and team-tabs with which you'll be able to plot, week-by-week, the progress of all 130 teams.

With the next two issues you'll receive the rest of the team-tabs, to be followed by the board covers of an exciting new booklet for you to compile from the pages of the magazine.

Good luck to you and your club.

Keep in touch.

David Gregory
THE EDITOR

Matches to watch at THE BIG

Brighton (stripes) and Mansfield face stern tests in their first games in Division Two after winning promotion last season.



LET'S HAVE a look at some of the tempting prospects the Football League have set before us for the opening day to the 1977-78 League season, August 20th.

It's apparent by the way that they've almost zoned the games, no doubt in an attempt to cash in on as many derby games as possible while people are enjoying their summer holidays and don't want to stray too far from home.

In the Second Division for example only Tottenham against Sheffield United involves a club in any extensive travel.

While there are several intriguing First Division matches, it's hard to pick out a plum.

The Champions and European Cup holders Liverpool could have hoped for a better reward than a visit to Middlesbrough.

It's never easy to win at Ayresome Park as even Liverpool have discovered in recent years and with Kevin Keegan missing for the first time prospects must be even slimmer.

But what a start for Boro's new manager John Neal who couldn't have asked for a sterner test.

Someone else who won't be complaining at the way the fixture list came out is Manchester City striker Brian Kidd.

The highlight of his first season at Maine Road was a four-goal star performance against Leicester City. And it's the Filbert Street men who set the ball rolling this time. They have been warned.

Leeds United's Tony Currie goes back to St James' Park, Newcastle, with a different sort of memory.

Last year Leeds, in the middle of a fine run at the time, crashed 3-0 at Newcastle — but Currie stole the show when he had to take over from the injured David Harvey in goal. He turned on a super show which included a penalty save from Tommy Craig. No doubt Harvey will be hoping for better luck, too. He hasn't played a first team game since.

They'll be singing Jolly Good Pals at The Hawthorns where newly-promoted Chelsea provide the opposition for West Bromwich Albion. In the Chelsea goal will be the ever-green Peter Bonetti, and at right-back at the

other end of the field will be his old mate Paddy Mulligan.

Both thought their First Division days were over at one stage.

Bonetti went to play in America but got a dramatic recall when The Blues realised they needed the old man more than they thought, and Mulligan dropped down with Palace before being resurrected by Johnny Giles and proving he can still live with the best.

Chelsea's banned fans won't be able to travel to that match, and what a shame for Manchester United's new manager Dave Sexton that the same applies to the Old Trafford club's notorious following.

Even so he'll take a lot of good wishes with him to Birmingham, where Willie Bell waits to greet a rival who was once his near-neighbour when both lived down on the South Coast at Brighton.

Another reunion at West Ham where Norwich City are due. These two clubs have done a good deal of business over the past few years and Canaries' manager John Bond learnt his trade at Upton Park, of course.

Providing Graham Paddon has recovered from that ill-timed broken leg, both he and Martin Peters will be lining up on old territory.

Sammy Chung takes Wolves back into the First Division at Bristol City, and Brian Clough re-emerges after a couple of years in the comparative obscurity of the Second Division with his new young lions of Nottingham Forest.

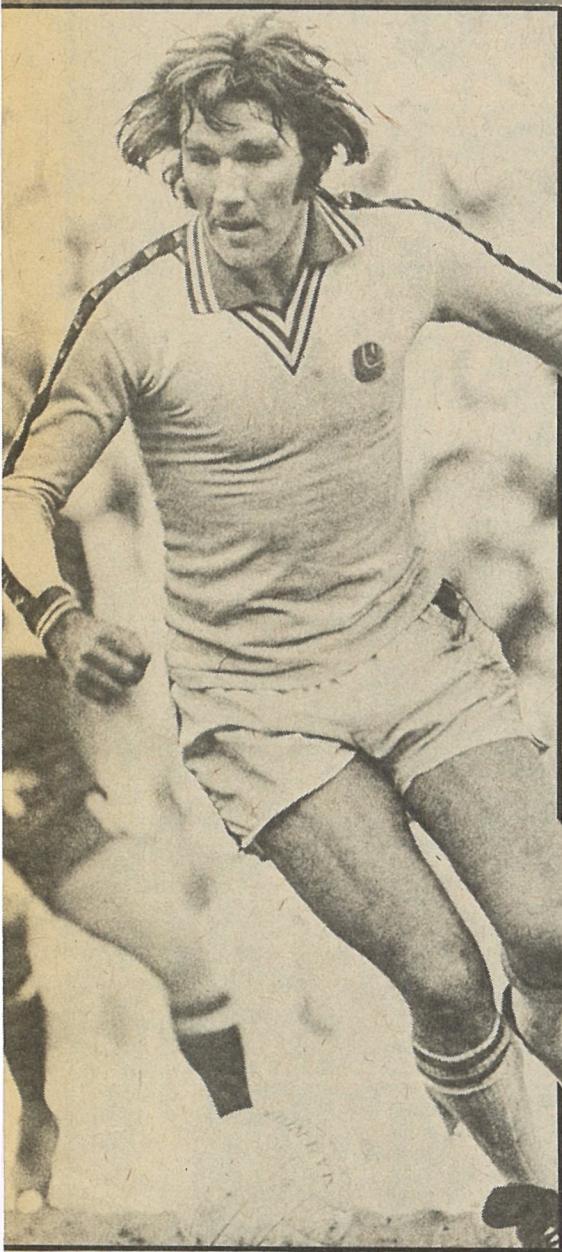
If there's one man Cloughie would like in his side who won't be there it's probably the striker who'll be aiming to shoot Forest down, Everton's Duncan McKenzie.

It was Clough who took McKenzie to Leeds, of course, and he's made no secret of the fact he thinks he's the bee's knees. We'll see at Goodison on opening day.

The curtain also goes up on Queens Park Rangers and Aston Villa in what can only be described as a re-run of last term's epic League Cup Semi-Final.

History tells us Villa won out on that occasion after three tremendous battles — but as we said at the start of this feature, this is another

KICK-OFF



And Fulham meet Charlton in the other London derby.

Making their bow as a Second Division club after a wait of 45 years, Mansfield Town begin by entertaining Stoke City, a First Division side last season, of course, and League Cup winners in 1971-72 when The Stags were themselves hitting rock bottom by going down to the Fourth Division.

For two young and enthusiastic managers Peter Morris and George Eastham this game

end as well.

Danny Williams goes back to his old stamping ground of Sheffield Wednesday, with Swindon, and here are two more sides very capable of figuring in the season's honours, while there'll be a "Don't I know you?" flavour about the meeting of Bradford City and Cambridge United at Valley Parade. They also met last year — a further rung down the ladder.

Watford (Elton John, Graham Taylor 'n all) take their road show to Stockport who also have a new manager — Alan Thompson — just 25-years-old. He holds Taylor's former tag of youngest manager in the League.

And old buddies John Petts and Bill Dodgin, once in the same half-back line together, come face to face in charge of Northampton and Brentford.

But perhaps pride of place in all Four Divisions on August 20 should go to Wimbledon.

The League's newest members write a chapter in their own book of history by entertaining Halifax Town. And while the Yorkshire club can hardly be expected to join in we all wish them well.



Above: Cambridge United striker Tom Finney (stripes) starts the season at Bradford City's Valley Parade.

Right: Chelsea goalkeeper Peter Bonetti will be making a return to the First Division — and will probably face former team-mate Paddy Mulligan, now with West Bromwich Albion.

Tony Currie filled in as an emergency goalkeeper when Leeds last visited Newcastle.

will act as a pointer for the rest of the campaign.

For another young manager Brighton's Alan Mullery the day will be rather special. He has taken his side into Division Two at the first attempt and he will begin by measuring his chances after a stern test at The Dell against the Second Division's most glamorous side Southampton.

Perhaps the pick of the Third Division's bill of fare is the clash between Shrewsbury Town and Wrexham.

Respective managers Alan Durban and Arfon Griffiths have shared a common love for their native Wales, and a common belief in free-flowing football for a good many years. Now they get their chance on the same platform, and if both can bring consistency to clubs renowned for their "fade-aways" in recent seasons they can share a common triumph at the season's

season, another day.

There's bound to be a preponderance of derby matches in the Second Division in London this season, with no fewer than six of the capital's clubs in the section — and four of them are in opposition on the opening day.

Newly-promoted Crystal Palace cut their teeth against Millwall at The Den — and they won't have forgotten that it was Gordon Jago's men who kept them waiting another twelve months by pipping them at the post in 1976.

Sadly Luton's bold late challenge petered out when the bank manager was just beginning to rub his hands last season, but it could be a different story now Phil Boersma has arrived at Kenilworth Road. He gets his first taste of the Second Division against Orient who also have a new striker on show — Peter Kitchen from Doncaster Rovers.

Right: Chelsea goalkeeper Peter Bonetti will be making a return to the First Division — and will probably face former team-mate Paddy Mulligan, now with West Bromwich Albion.

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MILESTONES

1977/1978

Arsenal:

Their 20th game will be their 2,500th First Division match.

Blackburn Rovers:

They require another 48 goals, for 5,000 in Football League matches.

Bradford City:

13 more wins will bring their total to 1,000 victories in the League. They require 54 more goals for 4,000 League goals.

Barnsley:

Their 5th goal against will be the 4,500th in League football.

Bristol Rovers:

Their next point will be their 500th in Division Two.

Bournemouth:

They have scored exactly 3,000 League goals.

Chelsea:

Their 8th League game will be their 2,000th First Division match. They require 40 goals for 3,000 First Division goals. Twenty-four victories will bring their total to 1,000 League wins.

Charlton:

Their next draw will be their 500th in the League. They require 22 goals for 1,500 in the Second Division.

Chesterfield:

Nine more wins will bring their total to 1,000 in the League.

Colchester:

Their 40th League game will be their 500th in the Third Division.

Derby County:

Derby's 37th point will bring their total to 1,000 in the First Division.

Darlington:

Their 8th point of the season will be their 2,000th League point.

Grimsby T.:

Their 32nd League match will be their 3,000th.

Gillingham:

Their 4th match will be their 2,000th in the Football League and their 40th League match will be their 500th in the Third Division.

Hull City:

Require 43 goals for 2,500 in the Second Division.

Halifax T.:

Their 7th point will be their 2,000th in the League.

Hartlepool:

Their 7th goal will be their 1,000th in the Fourth Division and their 20th goal will be their 3,000th in the League.

Liverpool:

Their 12th goal will be their 4,000th in the First Division and their 35th goal will be their 5,000th League goal.

Leeds U.:

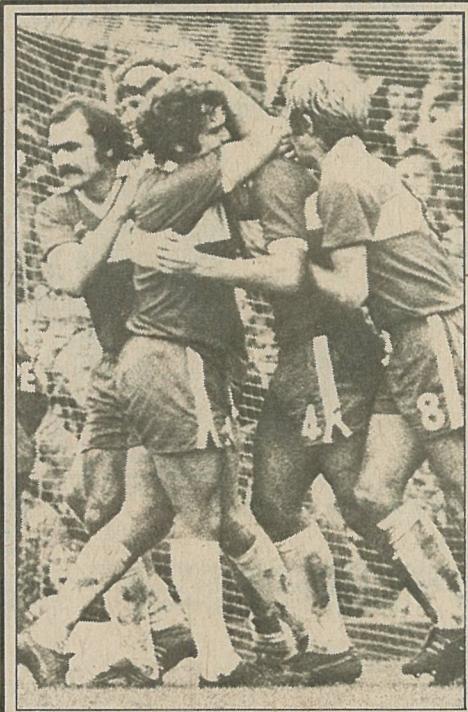
Their 20th game will be their 2,500th in the League.

Man. City:

The 6th goal against them will be the 4,500th conceded in the League.

Middlesbrough:

Their 2nd goal will be their 2,500th in the First Division.



ABOVE . . . Middlesbrough celebrate a goal last season. Two more will bring their total to 2,500 in the First Division. BELOW . . . Spurs concede another goal, this time v. Man. United . . . eleven more will be 3,500 in the League.

Northampton T.:

Their 10th goal will be their 3,500th goal in the League.

Newport C.:

Their 6th draw will be their 500th in the League.

Port Vale:

The 20th goal against them will bring their total to 4,000 against in the League.

Rotherham U.:

Their 4th draw will be their 500th in the League.

Reading:

Their 3rd goal will be their 3,500th in the League.

Rochdale:

Have scored exactly 2,000 League points.

Sunderland:

Their 12th game will be their 3,000th League match. The 13th goal against them will be the 4,500th they have conceded in the League.

Sheff. United:

The 2nd goal against them will be the 1,000th in the Second Division. The 26th against them will be the 4,500th in the League.

Sheff. Wed.:

The 27th goal against them will be the 4,500th goal conceded.

* Both Sheffield teams have drawn 691 League matches, and United have scored 10 more goals than Wednesday.

Stoke C.:

Their 33rd goal will be the 4,000th they have scored in the League.

Southport:

Require 17 more points to total 2,000 in the League.

Tottenham:

The 11th goal against them will bring the number conceded in the League to 3,500.

Walsall:

Their 23rd goal against will be the 4,000th conceded in League football.





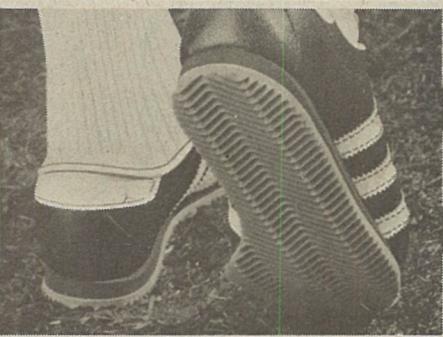
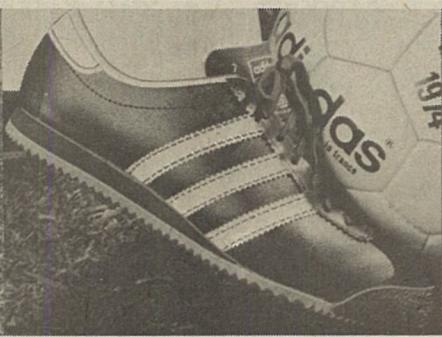
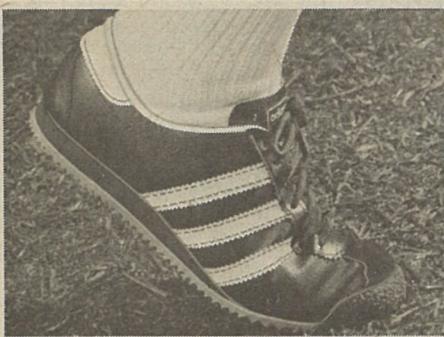
Traction in action

Kevin Keegan says:

"Soccer is a game in which 10 times more time is spent running than actually kicking. adidas gives me the traction to move fast to the right place at the right time".

To move on the field like Kevin also takes a lot of training. The "Kick" is a proven adidas soccer trainer that has helped many soccer players to fame.

Split leather uppers, durable gum sole, special toe guard, protective heel wedge – these are just some of the features that make "Kick" a lot of shoe for a lot of training.



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THE LIVERPOOL AND ENGLAND GOALKEEPER JOINS OUR TEAM OF STAR-WRITERS

Like a player making his League debut, I'm nervously keyed-up writing my first regular column for a magazine or newspaper. It's a new experience for me and taking over from Kevin Keegan, my ex-Liverpool team-mate, really puts me under pressure. As they say in show-business: follow that!

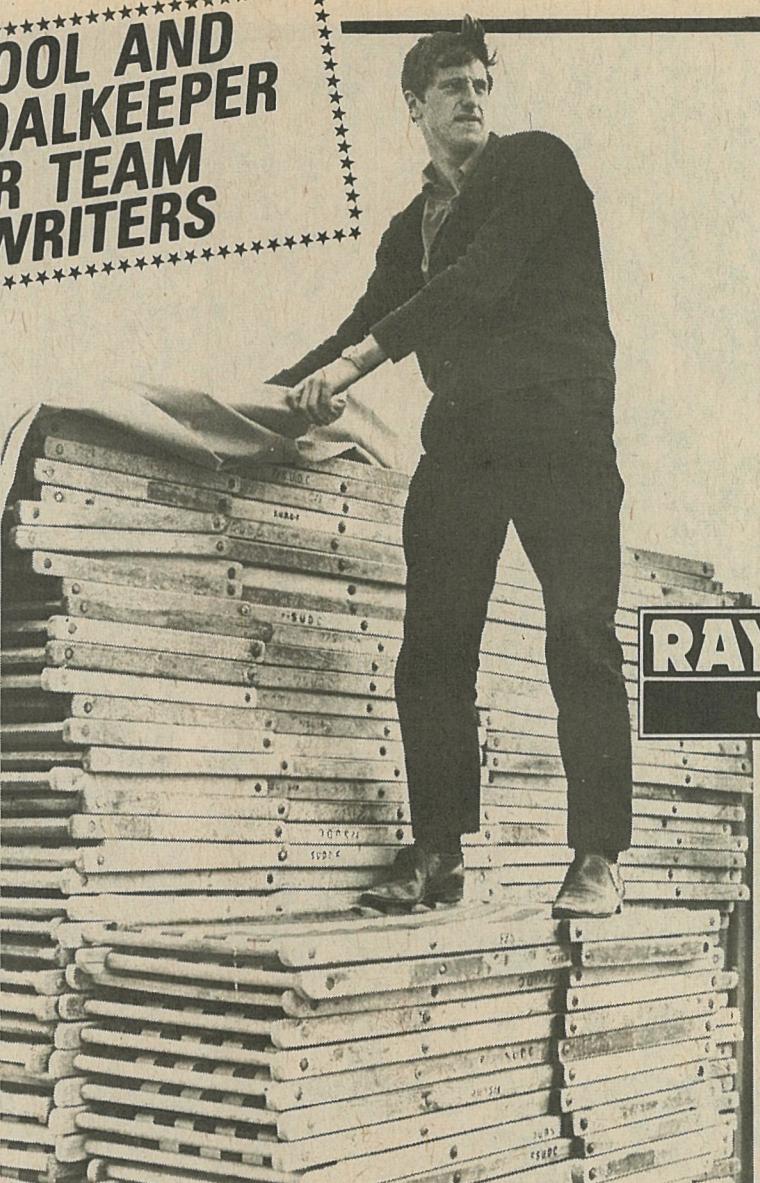
But it's another challenge — and being a Liverpool player I'm determined to overcome it and make my column the one that readers go for first.

I'm delighted to have been picked to succeed Kev, and to write about my experiences and views on the game every week. SHOOT is a fine magazine, held in high esteem in the game, and it's an honour to be part of it.

I'm looking forward to another great season with Liverpool. We'll be out to win our third Championship in a row — an even more difficult feat now that competition is fiercer than ever — to retain "The Big One", the European Cup — and to achieve something that eluded us last term, win the F.A. Cup.

The "impossible dream" could come true. But, to be realistic, the odds against it are even higher this term, simply because it's always harder second time around. And we'll be without Kevin, who played such a vital part in our road to glory last season. The absence of a world-class player must affect any side. Not that we'll miss him all the time. The Liverpool system is based on team-work without the emphasis on one player or handful of players. In six seasons, Kevin missed 20 games, and we won 19 of them.

But it's in the big games, the Semis and the Finals, that his performances, his touch of genius, has often been the deciding factor. On those occasions in the future we



could find ourselves wishing he was around, turning on his particular brand of magic.

Only time will tell how much Kevin's absence is felt. A player from last season's ranks may fill his place. In pre-season training, the two Davids — Fairclough and Johnson — have been going flat out to impress the manager, Bob Paisley, and take Kev's shirt.

But their chances look slim now

that we've signed Kenny Dalglish, who has been such a big success at Celtic.

Where we have missed Kevin has been in training. He's so full of life and stories of where he's been, who he's met, what new experiences he's had.

And we're no longer stumbling across his belongings scattered around the club. If there was an award for the untidiest player at Anfield, he would have won it every

'I was a deckchair attendant at Skegness'

time!

For years, Kevin followed me around in my travels. First at Scunthorpe United, which he joined just after I left for Liverpool in June, 1967. Then he came to Anfield, even moving into my digs when I left them to get married.

He followed me into the England team, and at one time we were even dropped together!

Maybe one of these days I'll follow him across the Channel to play for a foreign club. Football's an unpredictable world. You never know what's in store — good or bad.

Many readers will know little

RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

about my early days, how I became a goalkeeper and gravitated into becoming a professional footballer.

Would you believe I never wanted to be a goalkeeper? It's true. I was sort of press-ganged into it by the sportsmaster, Mr Frank Mott, at my school, Lumley Secondary Modern.

Frank was also assistant leader at our local youth club which had a very good team, and when we reached a Final, he gave me an ultimatum — either play in goal or sit on the sidelines, as there was no place for me outfield.

I was feeling a bit disenchanted with 'keeping at that time, having spent a period on trial with Notts County and been rejected after playing around eight times for the A team and once in the reserves. I think we lost every game, by an average of six goals.

But I played so well in that Cup Final that a Scunthorpe United scout afterwards sent a letter to the youth club inviting me along for a three-day trial.

I was accepted, and in my second full season for The Irons I took over from Geoff Sidebottom, who had formerly played for Aston Villa and

Grimsby stars

Can you tell me if my local team, Grimsby Town, have ever had anyone playing in a full international while on their books?

JOHN SHONE,
GRIMSBY

• Sure have, John — for don't forget, even though Grimsby have just been relegated to the Fourth Division, they've earlier spent a number of seasons in the First.

Grimsby have had three full England internationals — Jackie Bestall, Harry Betmead, and George Tweedy; each of whom gained just one cap for his country.

Their most-capped player is goal-grabbing centre-forward Pat Glover, who played seven times for Wales just before the last War.

Glentoran beat Arsenal

A friend has told me Glentoran once beat my favourite club, Arsenal. Is he having me on?

PETER WILSON,
LONDONDERRY

• No, he certainly isn't, Peter. The scoreline in Belfast was Glentoran 1, Arsenal 0 — in the second-leg of the First Round of the European Fairs Cup on 29th September, 1969.

Just to put your mind at rest, though, Arsenal had earlier won their home-leg 3-0 — and so went through to the Second Round on a 3-1 aggregate.

They went even further, too, that season — eventually winning the Fairs Cup by beating Anderlecht 4-3 on aggregate in the Final.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

ASK THE EXPERT

SHOOT, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

£1 for every letter published.

Close finish

Has it ever happened that two English First Division clubs — leading the table with an equal number of points, and each with just one League game left — happened to meet each other in that last vital match of the season?

MOHAMMED ALSALEH,
SAUDI ARABIA

• Can't find any trace of it ever being wrapped-up quite so neatly — and excitingly — as that, Mohammed.

But you might be interested in about the closest finish of all time anywhere in the League — when Portsmouth won promotion to the First Division on a superior goal-average of 0.005 (that's one two-hundredth part of a goal!) in 1926-27.

On the last day of that season, they were level on points with Manchester

Kevin Keegan against Borussia Mönchengladbach in the European Cup Final last season.

Wolves. I played a total of 44 League games and four F.A. Cup-ties before moving onwards and upwards to Liverpool.

My basic wage at Scunthorpe was only around £11 per week, barely enough to support myself, so that during the close season I took a job as deckchair attendant on the beach at my home town, Skegness.

It wasn't the only job open to me, of course — more demanding jobs requiring mental abilities were offered — but I liked the open air life, mixing with holidaymakers, and the pay was good.

Then came the moment every ambitious lower League player



'We might miss Kevin Keegan in big games'

European Cup win, and several Charity Shield wins.

Number One priority on the domestic front this season is, of course, the Championship. I expect an even bigger challenge from our main rivals of last season, Manchester City, as through buying Mike Channon from Southampton they appear to have the final cog in their machine.

Other clubs likely to be in contention are Ipswich, Manchester United, and my outside choice, Newcastle.

We open the season against Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park,

'THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM could come true this time'

tic answer.

I was soon on my way to Liverpool with the directors for my first meeting with the legendary Bill Shankly, then manager.

Shanks gave me the usual build-up, told me that if I kept on improving, it wouldn't be long before I took over from Tommy Lawrence, who was 29 and nearing the end of his career in the Liverpool first team.

Imagine my shock when I later learned that Tommy was only 27 and had several years at Anfield left in him.

It was two-and-a-half years before I made the breakthrough and took over between the sticks.

The Reds had suffered a bad defeat at Vicarage Road against Watford in the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup, and Shanks decided to make changes, going right through the centre of the team, dropping Ian St. John up-front, Ron Yeats at centre-half, and Tommy.

The next game was in the League against Derby. Although we lost two-nil, Shanks kept faith in me — we'd no chance of winning the League — and I kept my place and helped Liverpool earn a place in Europe for the following season.

Since then I've won a stack of honours: three Championships, one F.A. Cup win, two loser's medals, two U.E.F.A. Cup wins, one

dreams of — a telegram urging me to contact my club immediately.

I jumped straight on to my bike — I couldn't afford a car then — pedalled home flat out, rang the club, to be told the glorious news. Terms had been agreed with Liverpool, would I sign?

No need to tell you my enthusias-

tic answer.

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how many goals has he scored since?

**RUSSELL COBLEY,
SOUTH AFRICA**

Hot-shot Peter Lorimer was just 16 when he made his League debut for Leeds, against Southampton in September, 1962, Russell.

Since then, his pile-driving shots have notched-up 145 League goals for the club.

England ahead

Can you tell me the results of all England's full internationals against West Germany?

**JIM DEAN,
WHITBURN**

First game was at Wembley in 1954 — before the War, of course, there was only one Germany; not East and West

— and England won that 3-1, Jim.

After that, the West Germans were beaten 3-1 (Berlin, 1956); 1-0 (Nuremberg, 1965); and 1-0 (Wembley, 1966).

Then, later on in 1966, came the Wembley 'Big One' when England won the World Cup Final 4-2.

The next three games all went the West Germans' way — by 1-0 (Hanover, 1968); 3-2 (Leon, Mexico, 1970), and 3-1 (Wembley, 1972).

Finally, England drew 0-0 in Berlin in 1972 — and won the last one, at Wembley in 1975, by 2-0.

**SHORT
PASSES**

● Jock Stein, a former captain of the club, was appointed Celtic manager on 9th March, 1965.

(PAUL O'NEILL, Birmingham)

● You share your birthday of 25th November with four internationals — Mike Doyle (England), Eusebio (Portugal), Steve Heighway (Ireland), and Alan Rough (Scotland).

(GRAEME BLYTHE,
Wellingborough)

● Uruguay, in 1930, were the first World Cup-winners — beating Argentina 4-2 in the Final.

(D. COONEY, York)

● Newcastle's record win is 13-0 — v. Newport, in Div 2, on 5th October, 1946.

(LESLEY SPEARMAN,
Tyne and Wear)

Hot-shot Peter

Could you tell me how old my favourite player, Peter Lorimer was when he made his League debut for Leeds? And

THE English First Division prides itself on being the most competitive and wide-open in the world.

Unlike other countries, it boasts, our Championship is not the prerogative of two or three sides.

At this time of year all 22 clubs

CHAMPIONSHIP CHANCES

have high hopes. They're unbeaten, the players are looking forward to the action, the pitches are perfect and the fans, without soccer for so long, are also rarin' to go.

However, it would be wrong to say any one of the 22 First Division clubs could win the title.

Looking at the scene logically, the First Division can be divided into three sections . . . Probables, Possibles and No-Hopers.

The last category may appear rather unfair, but then clubs who narrowly escaped relegation last season, or those who won promotion, can't really be expected to carry off the Championship.

You certainly won't agree with all our selections, but our intention is to set you thinking and arguing amongst yourselves.

PROBABLES

The six clubs we think have a good chance of being Champions appear in alphabetical order:

ASTON VILLA should be in for their best season in years, improving even on their fourth place last time out.

They seem to have what it takes. A young, but relatively experi-

enced side . . . exciting, non-stop, attacking football . . . with the sort of goal-power other teams must envy.

Just a few question marks. How will the surprise departure of captain Chris Nicholl affect the back-four?

Although Villa have some very promising youngsters, is there enough experience in the squad?

Will Andy Gray be as lethal again? We think Villa will have enough all-round strength to get by, and money is surely available should Ron Saunders need it.

IPSWICH must win something soon. They've promised a lot, but if we're going to be harsh, it must be pointed out they've won nothing.

Even so, Town are full of the best things in football and with a year's more experience, the likes of Burley, Wark and Talbot will be even better.

It would be a shot in the arm for soccer if the well-run Ipswich club landed an honour.

LEEDS UNITED may have been "quiet" in the past couple of seasons, but there is still enough talent at Elland Road to keep them at the top.

If Joe Jordan stays, Leeds' chances will be even higher. No noticeable weakness, and new-boy Arthur Graham will give them an even stronger left side, with

Eddie Gray as good as ever.

LIVERPOOL? Well, no fan in his or her right mind would rule them out, Kevin Keegan or no Kevin Keegan.

You might think "surely they can't go on?" but would you bet against them?

The Reds will want to climb all the mountains they've already conquered and come next May there's every chance of some more silverware finding its way to Anfield.

THE TWO MANCHESTER CLUBS will be having their private battle at the top again.

CITY have faltered at the final hurdle, but manager Tony Book is keen to strengthen his squad — even though he secured Mike Channon — and perhaps The Blues can at last find the consistency needed to win the title again.

It's unlikely Dave Sexton will change UNITED'S up-and-at-'em style very much. Why should he?

Their tactics have been successful in the past three years and with that marvellous home crowd, visitors to Old Trafford won't get much joy.

Our biggest reservation is that the possible ban on United's supporters at away grounds could affect their performances on opponents' grounds.

So they're our Probables. The six who we — and, possibly, many supporters — will expect to be contesting the title most fiercely.

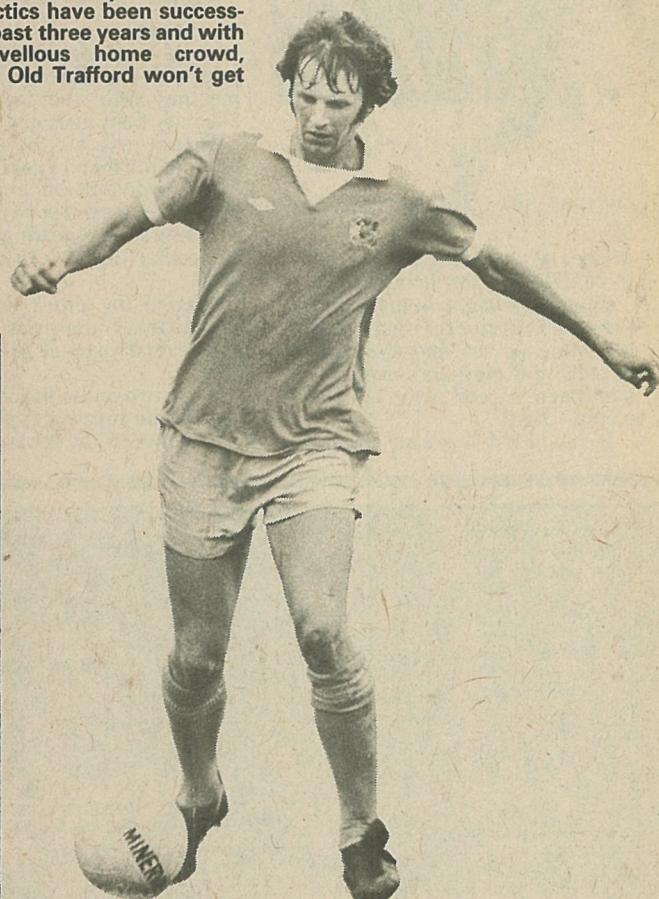
POSSIBLES

Of course, one of the Possibles could come through and surprise everyone, but while there are often "unlikely" Cup winners . . . the title is rarely won by an outsider.

Could LEICESTER CITY, inspired by new manager Frank McLintock, catch the "big boys" on the hop by adding steel to their flair?

How will John Neal change MIDDLESBROUGH? With freedom, Boro could score a few more goals, which would make them very difficult to beat.

Can EVERTON continue the



ABOVE . . . Manchester City new boy Mike Channon could shoot the Maine Road club to the title.

LEFT . . . Joe Jordan (light strip) of Leeds and Villa's Charlie Young in action — two players with "probables".

improvement they showed when Gordon Lee was appointed manager? Lee may need another season before he gets the sort of pattern he is looking for.

NEWCASTLE UNITED are, perhaps, overdue for success. But the internal discontent gives the impression all is still not quite right behind the scenes. To win the title, complete harmony must exist between players, manager and board.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS missed the Championship by a whisker in 1976, but last term they showed little of the style that

For instance, for any of the promoted clubs to finish in, say, the Top Ten would be a fine performance.

COVENTRY CITY, WEST HAM and BRISTOL CITY escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth. They'll be looking simply to improve on last season's dismal performances rather than win the title.

What of the "new clubs"? All have experience of the top flight in recent years.

Strangely, **WOLVES** have virtually the same line-up as the one that went down two years ago. With the confidence of last season behind them, the goal-hungry men



made them such a force.

That brilliant coach Dave Sexton has gone... can the new-look Rangers get back on the right tracks? Maybe, but their squad looks thin and there aren't enough youngsters coming through.

ARSENAL may be London's best bet for honours, although there is still a nagging doubt about The Gunners.

The rows in Australia have given a bad start to the season and up-front Malcolm Macdonald and Frank Stapleton could do with more help. Graham Rix could make a big name for himself this season.

Surely **DERBY COUNTY** can't be as poor as last time out? They're another club where one has the impression all is not well behind the scenes. Our sympathies lie with Colin Murphy, who is the first manager to be "ousted" by the Press every time a big-name boss becomes available.

The best outside bet seem to be **EVERTON**, who have a huge squad which gives manager Lee many permutations. And we may even see Duncan McKenzie establishing himself as a first-team player. We hope so — Division One could do with a few more like him.

NO-HOPERS

This isn't to say all these teams will be unsuccessful, but success for them will be on a different level.

ABOVE... Peter Eastoe (right) of Q.P.R. in action against Birmingham — their club's Championship hopes are slim.

ABOVE, RIGHT... Steve Finnieston of Chelsea scored a lot of goals in Division Two — can he do the same "up top"?

RIGHT... Trevor Brooking (white shirt) of West Ham and Bristol City's Geoff Merrick — looks like relegation problems again for these two clubs.

make or break.

Brian Clough worked wonders to win promotion with **NOTTINGHAM FOREST**, buying shrewdly and making the players believe in themselves. He knows it'll be tougher at the top, though...

After their excellent form last season we'll probably annoy **WEST BROM** fans by placing their heroes in the No-Hoppers' category.

This is not meant as a slight on new boss Ronnie Allen, but everyone has hunches and in our defence we remind you many Stoke fans were angry when we said their club was in for a bad time last season. Stoke are now in Division Two.

NORWICH CITY had a bad time with injuries in 1976/77, worse than most clubs. With better luck, The Canaries could be a top-half-of-the-table side.

BRISTOL CITY will be a better team for last season's experience. If Tom Ritchie and Paul Cheesley can get going again, City should survive more easily this time.

So who's for the dreaded drop? Going by past records, it's the teams who can't score goals who go down. A strong defence won't necessarily keep you up... you gotta have goals!

In that case, look for sides who could struggle to find the back of the net.

BIRMINGHAM CITY seem thin in the goals' department following the departure of Kenny Burns, while **COVENTRY CITY** won't find it any easier than last season to score goals... and they found that very difficult, especially away.



from Molineux could go off with a bang... but is their defence strong enough?

CHELSEA face a tough fight. The Londoners will run until they drop... it's hard to predict how they'll do because quite a few of their youngsters haven't proved themselves in Division One. Now, it's

And **WEST HAM**? Still readily written-off by cynics who say most people beat them these days!

Pop Robson hit a "purple patch" in the second-half of the season to play a major role in The Hammers' survival.

However, Robson and John Radford are both the wrong side of 30,

so much will depend on the younger Alan Taylor. Could be another season of discontent for West Ham.

Oh, we haven't picked our favourites for the Championship. A poll among **SHOOT** staff gave most votes to **Manchester City**.



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HOW THEY FINISHED

in 1976-77

DIVISION I

	HOME					AWAY					Pt
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
L'pool	42	18	3	0	47	11	5	8	15	22	57
Man C	42	15	5	1	38	13	6	9	6	22	56
Ipswich	42	15	4	2	41	11	7	4	10	25	52
A Villa	42	17	3	1	55	17	5	4	12	21	33
Newcastle	42	14	6	1	40	15	4	7	10	24	49
Man Utd	42	12	6	3	41	22	6	5	10	30	47
W.B.A.	42	10	6	5	38	22	6	7	8	24	34
Arsenal	42	11	6	4	37	20	5	5	11	27	39
Everton	42	9	7	5	35	24	5	7	9	27	40
Leeds	42	8	8	5	28	26	7	4	10	20	25
Leicester	42	8	9	4	30	28	4	9	8	17	32
Mid'sbro.	42	11	6	4	25	14	3	7	11	15	31
Birm'h.	42	10	6	5	28	25	3	6	12	25	38
Q.P.R.	42	10	7	4	31	21	3	5	13	16	31
Derby	42	9	9	3	36	18	0	10	11	14	37
Norwich	42	12	4	5	30	23	2	5	14	17	41
W Ham	42	9	6	6	28	23	2	8	11	18	42
Bristol C	42	8	7	6	25	19	3	6	12	18	29
Coventry	42	7	9	5	34	26	3	6	12	14	33
Sund'Ind	42	9	5	7	29	16	2	7	12	17	38
Stoke	42	9	8	4	21	16	1	6	14	7	35
Spurs	42	9	7	5	26	20	3	2	16	22	52

DIVISION II

	HOME					AWAY					Pt
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Wolves	42	15	3	3	48	21	7	10	4	36	24
Chelsea	42	15	6	0	51	22	6	7	8	22	31
Nottm F	42	14	3	4	53	22	7	7	7	24	21
Bolton	42	15	2	4	45	21	5	9	7	29	35
Blackpl.	42	11	7	3	29	17	6	10	5	29	25
Luton	42	13	5	3	39	17	8	1	12	28	31
Charlton	42	14	2	5	22	27	2	11	8	19	31
Notts Co.	42	11	5	5	29	20	8	5	8	36	40
Soton	42	12	6	3	40	24	5	4	12	32	43
Millwall	42	9	6	3	31	22	6	7	8	26	31
Sheff U	42	9	8	4	32	25	5	4	12	22	38
Blackbn.	42	12	4	5	31	18	3	5	13	11	36
Oldham	42	11	6	4	37	23	3	4	14	15	41
Hull	42	9	8	4	31	17	1	9	11	14	36
Bristol R	42	8	9	4	33	27	4	4	13	21	41
Burnley	42	8	9	4	27	20	3	5	13	19	44
Fulham	42	9	7	5	29	25	2	6	13	15	36
Cardiff	42	7	6	8	30	30	5	4	12	26	37
Orient	42	4	8	9	18	23	5	8	8	19	32
Carlisle	42	7	7	7	31	33	4	5	12	18	42
Plymth.	42	5	9	7	27	25	3	7	11	19	40
Herefd.	42	6	9	6	28	30	2	6	13	29	48

DIVISION III

	HOME					AWAY					Pt
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Mansfield	46	17	6	0	52	13	11	2	10	26	29
Brighton	46	19	3	1	63	14	6	8	9	20	61
C. Palace	46	17	5	1	46	15	6	8	9	22	59
Rotherham	46	11	9	3	30	15	11	6	6	39	29
Wrexham	46	15	6	2	47	22	9	4	10	33	32
Preston	46	15	4	4	48	21	6	8	9	16	22
Bury	46	15	2	6	41	21	8	6	9	23	33
Sheff W.	46	15	4	4	39	18	7	5	11	26	33
Lincoln	46	12	9	2	50	30	7	5	11	27	40
Shrewsb	46	13	7	3	40	21	5	4	14	25	38
Swindon	46	12	6	5	48	33	3	9	11	20	42
Gill'ham	46	11	8	4	31	21	5	4	14	24	43
Chester	46	14	3	6	28	20	4	5	14	20	38
Tranmre	46	10	7	6	31	23	3	3	10	20	30
Walsall	46	8	7	8	39	32	5	8	10	18	31
P'boro	46	11	4	8	33	28	2	11	12	22	37
Oxford	46	9	8	6	34	29	3	7	13	21	36
Chestrfd	46	10	6	7	30	20	4	4	15	26	44
P. Vale	46	9	7	7	28	28	2	9	12	18	43
Portsmouth	46	8	9	6	28	26	3	5	15	25	44
Reading	46	10	5	8	29	24	3	4	16	20	49
Nthmptn	46	9	4	10	33	29	4	4	15	27	46
Grimsby	46	10	6	7	29	22	2	3	18	16	47
York	46	7	8	8	25	34	3	4	16	25	55

DIVISION IV

	HOME					AWAY					Pt
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Camb U	46	16	5	2	57	18	10	8	5	30	22
Exeter	46	17	5	1	40	13	8	7	8	33	32
Colchstr.	46	19	2	2	51	14	6	7	10	26	29
Bradford	46	16	7	0	51	18	7	6	10	27	33
Swansea	46	18	3	2	60	23	7	5	11	32	38
Barnsley	46	16	5	2	45	18	7	4	12	17	21
Watford	46	15	7	1	46	13	3	8	12	21	37
Doncaster	46	16	2	5	47	25	5	7	11	24	40
H'field	46	15	5	3	36	15	4	7	12	24	34
Southnd.	46	11	9	3	35	19	4	10	9	17	26
Darl'tn	46	13	5	5	37	25	5	8	10	22	39
Crewe	46	16	6	1	36	15	3	5	15	11	45
B'mouth	46	13	8	2	39	13	2	10	11	31	48
Stockpt.	46	10	10	0	3	29	19	3	9	11	24
Brentfd.	46	14	3	6	48	27	4	4	15	29	49
Torquay	46	12	5	6	33	22	5	4	16	25	45
Aldrshot	46	10	8	5	29	19	6	3	14	20	43
Rochdale	46	8	7	8	32	25	5	5	13	18	34
Newport	46	11	6	6	33	21	3	4	16	19	37
Sntpthe	46	11	6	6	32	24	2	5	16	17	49
Halifax	46	11	6	6	36	18	0	8	15	11	40
H'pool	46	8	9	6	30	20	3	2	18	17	53
Southpt.	46	3	12	2	8	17	28	0	7	16	19
Work'tn	46	3	7	13	23	42	1	4	18	18	60

SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY					Pt
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Celtic	36	13	5	0	44	16	10	4	4	35	23
Rangers	36	12	4	2	36	16	6	6	6	26	21
Aberdeen	36	11									

ACLEAN sweep for Scotland! That was the result of SHOOT'S Most Exciting Players of 1976/77 competition. By wide margins, readers voted Celtic's Danny McGrain as the top performer in the Scottish League . . . and hot-shot Andy Gray the Number One from the Football League. Perhaps it was fitting in a season when Scotland won the British Championship. And it proves that defenders AND forwards can be exciting.

YOUR MOST



THRILLED TO BITS . . . the two Scottish internationals were delighted to receive their awards. Andy Gray, the 21-year-old Aston Villa goal-ace, said: "When I look back at the players who have won the SHOOT award I'm flattered. It was marvellous to receive the P.F.A. trophies, but to be voted the Most Exciting Player in England by the readers of a top-selling magazine is a special satisfaction." Danny McGrain, now 27 and undoubtedly a world-class full-back, commented: "Usually it's the forwards who get the headlines. Sandy Jardine won SHOOT'S award a few years ago, but by

and large it's the front-men who carry off such trophies. This is why I'm delighted to have been voted Scotland's Most Exciting Player." Celtic manager Jock Stein, who presented the trophy to Danny, added: "He's the best full-back in the world. No doubt about it." You won't even find many Rangers supporters arguing with that!

It was certainly a great season for both players. Apart from the SHOOT awards, Danny and Andy helped their clubs to major honours. Celtic, of course, won the Double, while Gray's goals did much towards Villa's League Cup triumph.

McGrain has almost 40 caps to his credit now, while Gray is still a "learner" at international level. Yet ask either player his ambitions this season and he'll reply: "To play for Scotland in the World Cup Finals."

The Celtic star will definitely be there to help the Scots against Wales and Czechoslovakia (bar injury) while Andy must be almost an embarrassment to manager Ally MacLeod. A momentary flare-up in Prague means the Villa striker is banned from these games. We're sure MacLeod would love to see him link up with big Joe Jordan to give Scotland the sort of fire-

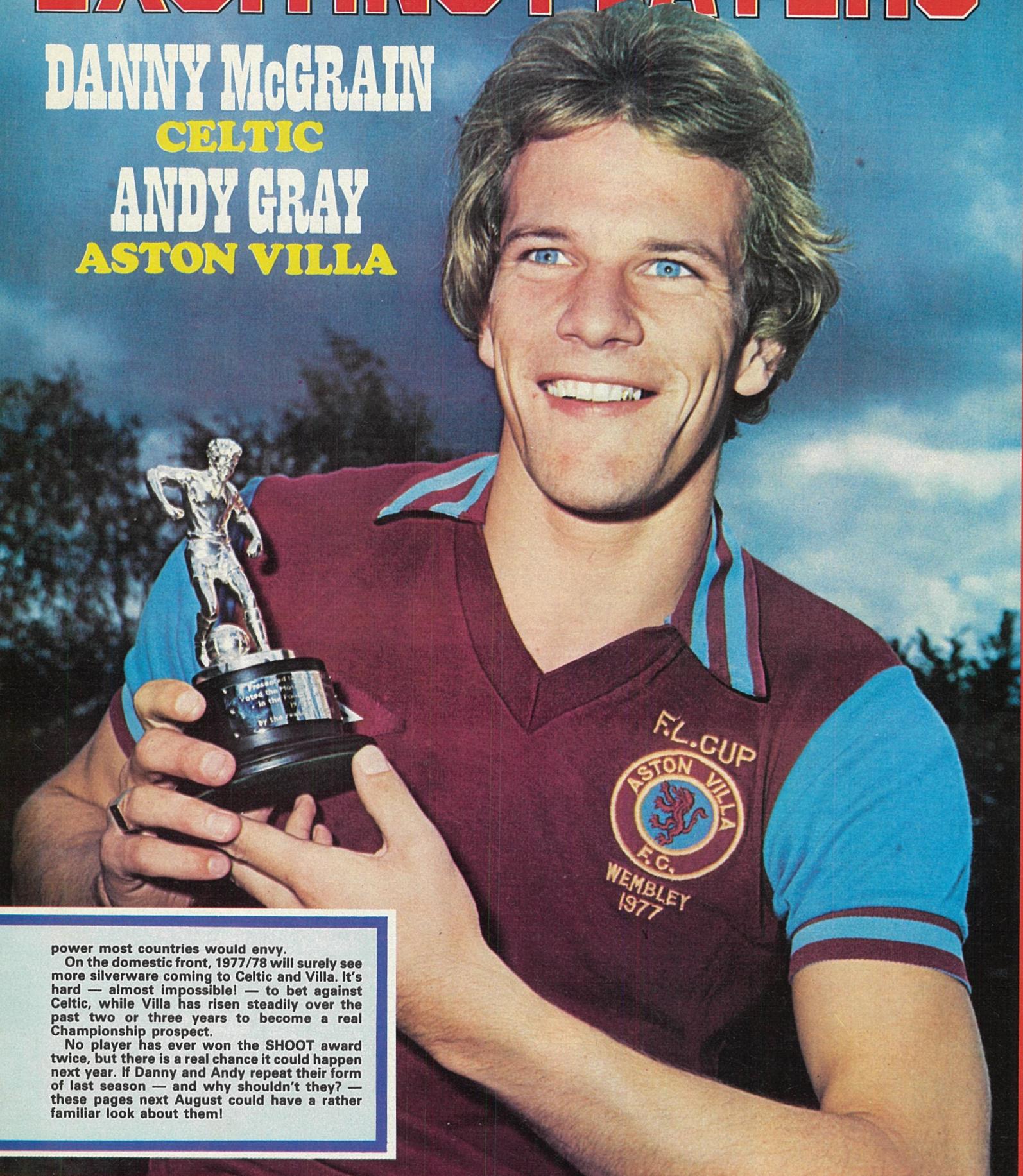
EXCITING PLAYERS

DANNY McGRAIN

CELTIC

ANDY GRAY

ASTON VILLA



power most countries would envy.

On the domestic front, 1977/78 will surely see more silverware coming to Celtic and Villa. It's hard — almost impossible! — to bet against Celtic, while Villa has risen steadily over the past two or three years to become a real Championship prospect.

No player has ever won the SHOOT award twice, but there is a real chance it could happen next year. If Danny and Andy repeat their form of last season — and why shouldn't they? — these pages next August could have a rather familiar look about them!

If Aston Villa finish above Liverpool and Manchester City, we'll be League Champions.

Because The Anfield Reds and the Maine Road Blues are the two sides I respect most when it comes to picking would-be Champs.

It's not bias when I include Villa in my short-list either. It's logic. Last season we finished fourth, under the circumstances very satisfying.

Our League Cup involvement obviously hindered us in the League, although when I look back I can remember some silly points being dropped. Maybe we could have finished third, but nobody at Villa Park was exactly disappointed with fourth place ... and the



"One of Liverpool's valuable away draws last season, at Coventry."

League Cup.

Why do I think we can win the title for the seventh time in the club's history?

We are better prepared than this time last year and the mood at Villa Park is very optimistic.

We're a relatively "new" team and 1976/77 was the first season this side has had together.

The experience of playing together for a year will obviously benefit us. We're still a young outfit, but most of us have a useful amount of League games behind us.

If I have any reservations, it is that our first team squad could possibly do with one or two more experienced faces.

Injuries are inevitable — I've had a few knocks and the season hasn't even started!

Yet we lost two or three players last term and still lasted the course.

The only significant change to our line-up has been the departure of stopper Chris Nicholl, who has been replaced by Ken McNaught.

They're similar types of players so the Villa style won't alter. Villa know Ken well — we played against him enough times last season in the League and League Cup!

I scored against him once, in the League at Villa Park, although our best performance was possibly at Goodison Park when we won 2-0.

'VILLA MUST TWO DIFFERENT SIDES'

Ken's only 21 so is a good long-term prospect. The boss — Ron Saunders — decided Ken was the man for us and didn't give up in his chase for the Scot.

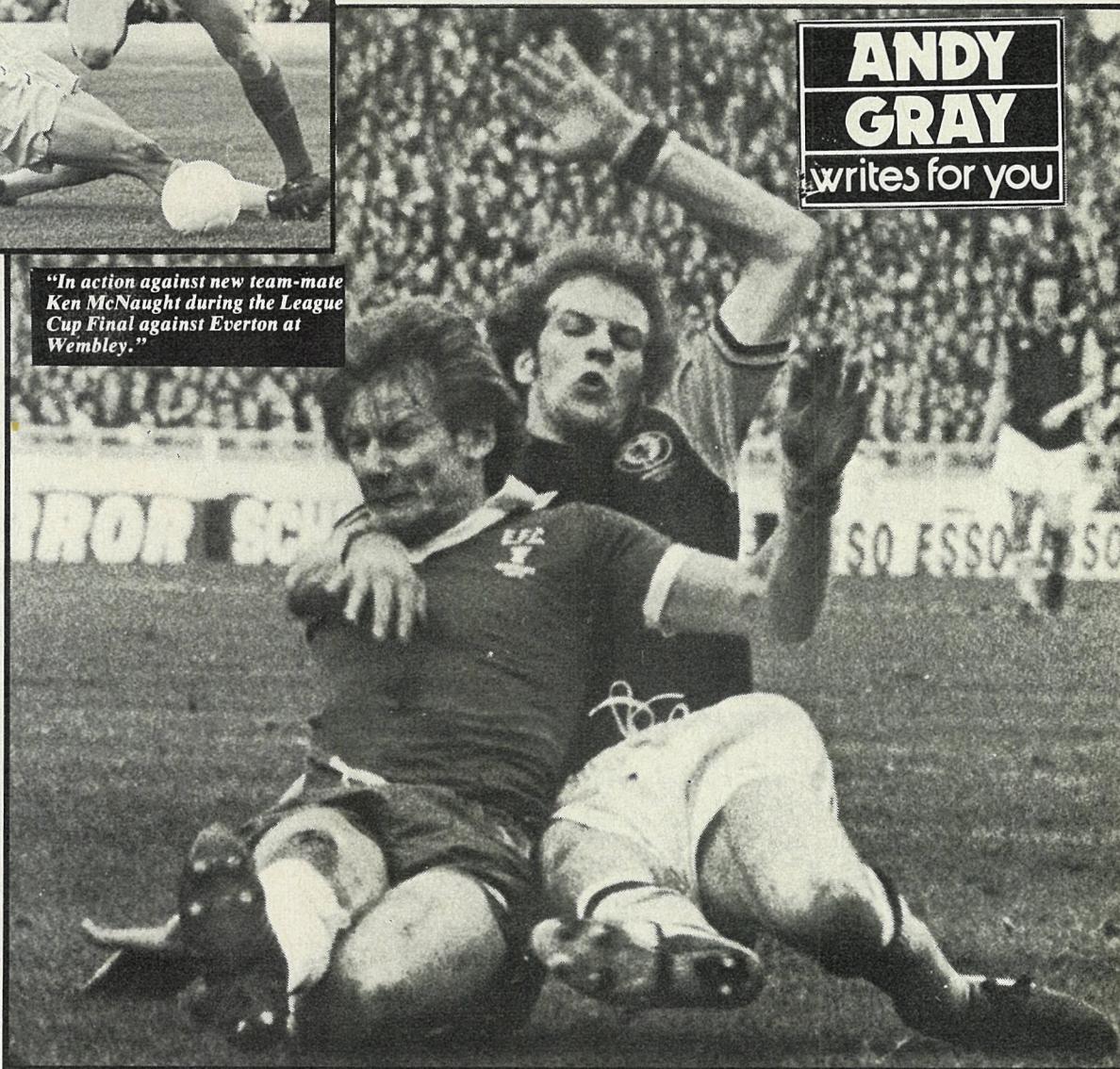
The manager hasn't really mentioned the Championship as I write. No doubt he will be spelling it out to us this week, although we're all

aware of our responsibilities and the task that lies ahead.

We know we can't afford to lose more than seven or eight of the 42 League matches if we want to finish top.

That's a very tall order, especially when you look at the fixture list and see there are so many games you

**ANDY
GRAY**
writes for you



BECOME



"I'll be alternating with Ray Wilkins in SHOOT this season."

COULD lose.

Our away form has not always been as consistent as we would have liked and perhaps in this respect we must take a leaf out of Liverpool's book.

Let's face it, Liverpool have GOT to be the yardstick for others. I don't have to spell out their record — it's well known.

The Reds are almost two different teams — the one that plays at Anfield . . . and the one that plays away.

At home, Liverpool attack their opponents from the word "go" and don't let up until the final whistle. How many times can you remember them losing in front of The Kop?

Villa don't have any problems at home. Like Liverpool, we're almost invincible with just one defeat in last term's League campaign.

Our problem has been that we try to play the same type of football all the time and have paid the price.

We should take a close look at Liverpool, who give nothing away on opponents' grounds.

I tip the Merseysiders to be there or thereabouts again simply because it's impossible to discount them.

They have this tremendous ability to keep going when many people think they'll crack and I'm sure The Reds will prove a few people wrong yet again.

Manchester City fell away at the end last season. Now, they have Mike Channon to boost their already strong goal-power.

I wasn't too surprised Mike left Southampton — it was time for him to move on. But I was taken aback when he joined City, who didn't seem to be lacking much up-front.

Still, a player of his class would help ANY side, so opposing defences can expect to have their

work cut out from now.

Two other clubs who will no doubt be in the running again are Manchester United and Ipswich Town.

United were lucky that their change of manager came during the summer. For such an upheaval to have happened in the season — especially under those circumstances — would have been a severe blow to morale.

But they've all had time to adjust to it now and Dave Sexton will be good for them. His ideas on soccer will suit the attacking United.

Ipswich have promised a lot in recent years, yet so far have failed to produce the goods. They must be wondering if they'll ever win anything.

Their problem could be inexperience, but the likes of John Wark, Brian Talbot and George Burley are a year older now and I wouldn't rule Ipswich out of the race for honours.

The side I'll be keeping a special eye on are Chelsea, who could do a "Manchester United". The Old Trafford team took Division One by storm after winning promotion and Chelsea could do the same.

Apart from Villa winning the League, my other big hope for this season is for Scotland to reach the World Cup Finals, which I'm sure we'll do.

Once again, I can see Scotland being Britain's sole representative in the Finals. England COULD do it, but realistically I must plump for Italy from Group Two.

They may beat Italy at Wembley, yet the Italians are always capable of "nicking" a goal and 2-1 probably won't be enough for England.

I've been a little dismayed at some of the recent ground restrictions. Many seem too severe — to reduce Cardiff's capacity by something like 75 per cent is very puzzling.

I'm all for safety after the Ibrox Disaster, but there must be a happy medium.

I can't see too many changes in the game. One I'd like is for referees to once more take a hard line on the tackle from behind.

They seem to have relaxed a little in the past couple of years and I hope they tighten up on offenders this season.

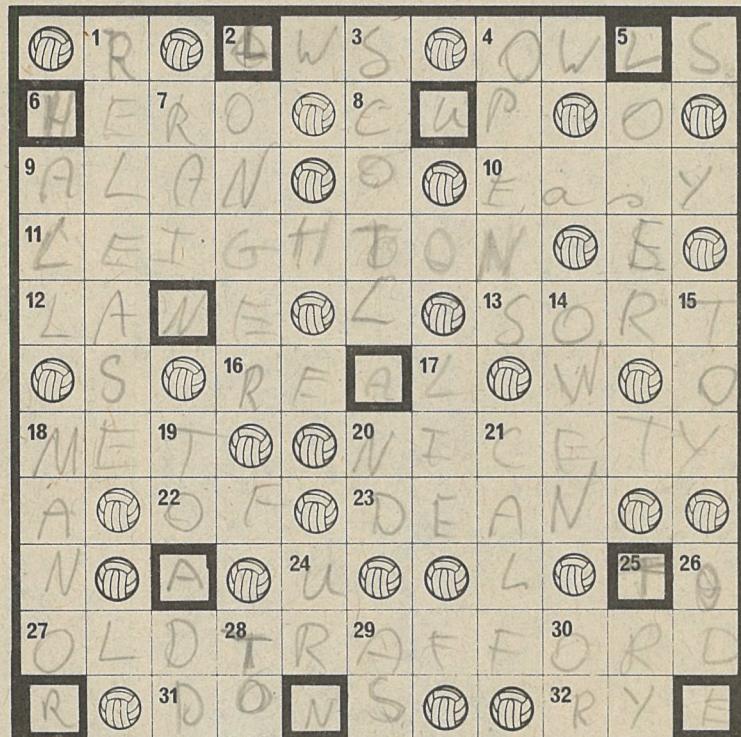
During the season, I'll be alternating with Chelsea skipper Ray Wilkins, who I'm sure will be a big asset to the SHOOT "team".

So I'll see you all again in two weeks,

Andy Gray

So for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Ipswich Town defender. Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:

- (2) — Barrett of Fulham.
- (4) The —, Sheffield Wednesday's nickname.
- (6) —ef-rd Utd from Edgar Street.
- (8) Manchester United are the present F.A. — holders.
- (9) — Ball midfielder with Southampton.
- (10) Not difficult. An — win, perhaps.
- (11) — Phillips, of Aston Villa and Wales.
- (12) Bramall —, Sheffield United's ground.
- (13) —me--on Park home ground of Newport County.
- (16) — Madrid, European club Champions 1956 to 1960.
- (18) Dave Cle--n, Q.P.R. full-back.
- (20) Ma--h-s-er C-t. Unimportant detail from the emissions.
- (22) Queen — the South.
- (23) — Court, home of Bournemouth.
- (25) Ian Brit--n of Chelsea.
- (27) Manchester United's ground. (3 & 8).
- (31) -te-h-u-emuir. Missing letters reversed.
- (32) Ter-- Coop-r of Middlesbrough.

DOWN:

- (1) Make available. As to — a player from his contract.
- (2) The field of play must not be — than 130 yards.
- (3) Winners of the 1977 British Championship.
- (4) Begins — or makes public.
- (5) The person who has not won.
- (6) Roots —, ground of Southend United.
- (7) Can cause trouble with the pitch becoming very muddy.
- (14) Gary —, Manchester City midfielder.
- (15) A plaything from the missing letters in Tommy -a-i-r (West Ham).
- (17) Brian --tl- of Aston Villa.
- (18) — Road Ground, Oxford United.
- (19) Take five letters from Aldershot to make frog-like amphibians.
- (21) Fleshy rear of the leg below the knee.
- (24) B---den Park home of Bolton Wanderers.
- (25) Coven--- City.
- (26) R-ch-al- need a poem.
- (28) Bris--l Rovers, The Pirates.
- (29) Jimmy C--e of Liverpool.
- (30) Terry Y--ath Coventry and Wales captain.

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'I'll stay a HARD man'

DODS KENNY BURNS

DOWN IN the Forest something is going to stir... opposing attacks. For when manager Brian Clough paid £150,000 to Birmingham for Kenny Burns, he bought one of soccer's hard men. And a very good player.

Clough indicated his sound judgment by stating he was going to play Burns as a central-defender. Despite scoring more than 20 goals for Birmingham last season, knowledgeable men about football will tell you he is a better defender.

So will most of his former colleagues at Birmingham. As for his hard reputation, it doesn't worry Burns. He says:

"There's no use denying it—I'm not the most popular player in football. Indeed, there are quite a number of pros who don't like my style.

"Trouble is I go in hard. Is that wrong? As long as the tackle is fair there is nothing in the rule book to regulate its strength.

"Alas, it doesn't go down very well with some players. Well, I have news for them. It doesn't bother me and I have no intention of easing up when challenging for possession. It was like that at Birmingham; it will be the same at Nottingham Forest.

"Why should I ease up? Nearly every team has one or two 'no-nonsense' players. For example, there is Kevin Beattie at Ipswich. He doesn't mess about when he goes for the ball. There's Duncan Forbes at Norwich. And, in case anyone forgets, Bristol City have Norman Hunter.

"I'll admit my approach to the game has caused me problems in the past. In fact, once it just about broke my heart. That was when Glasgow Rangers told me I was no longer wanted."

The reason was Burns had been sent-off three times in four youth matches. Third time unlucky.

Burns recalls: "Willie Waddell, manager at the time, told me I was not the type of player they wanted at Ibrox.

"So there I was... out of the club I idolised. I was still only 16. Thinking back, I suppose I could have stayed. They offered me £5 a week to become an apprentice. I wanted £10.



"Being sent packing by The Gers might have been a blessing in disguise, for within a few weeks Birmingham City and Crystal Palace came after me. I chose City.

"I have never regretted my decision. I know I was fined by the club after a training flare-up, but then manager Willie Bell made me skipper.

"That was a boost and I would do anything for the club. I played against Derby the season before last when the manager said some players should have stayed in bed.

"In bed? And my team deep in relegation trouble. Someone must be joking. You can't help your team if you are in bed and when we beat the Champions. It was a super flu cure—especially as I got the equaliser."

Barracking doesn't upset Burns. He explains: "I was handed some awful stick after Coventry's Donal Murphy was ordered off when Birmingham played them at Highfield Road. The home fans took it out on me, yet it was their player who was sent for an early bath.

"Maybe it was because he was sort of new to the game and the home fans thought I should have taken it easy on him. That'll be the day—when I ask an opponent to show me his birth certificate.

"I have two aims now... to help Forest to win an honour... and to get back into the Scottish side. That would be a super double."

AS every manager worth his salt will tell you, the most heartbreaking aspect of the job comes at the end of a season when some young, often starry-eyed professionals, has to be told his services are no longer required.

A boy with dreams of being the next Kevin Keegan, can find himself on soccer's scrapheap before his career has even started.

And yet hope seems to spring eternal with some of these youngsters — and thankfully there are managers in the game who recognise that perhaps another club may have made a mistake, or that some players develop later than others.

Thus it is that in contacting all 92 League clubs we find many of them are giving second chances to "free transfer" men who feared their days in the Football League were over.

Mostly, of course, these are Third and Fourth Division clubs who can't afford large salaries and are hoping they might just find a gem among the pebbles — as has happened in the past, of course.

Cambridge United manager Ron Atkinson gave six of his players free

of luck involved. You just have to back your hunches."

Another club banking heavily on free transfer men is Port Vale.

They've brought back to Potteries country Bill Bentley, the winger turned full-back who has given such splendid service to Stoke City and Blackpool.

It was a tribute to Bentley's loyalty that Blackpool gave him a free and enabled manager Roy Sproson to step in.

Slightly different circumstances surround the move of Hull City pair Graeme McGifford and Jeff Hemmerson to Vale Park.

McGifford who started out with Huddersfield Town couldn't get into the Boothferry Park first team because of the consistency of England Under-23 full-back Peter Daniel, and Hemmerson who scored one of the most spectacular goals seen on television last season in a match against Wolves, was also on the fringe of being a regular

player without ever quite making it. Oxford United have plumped for experience. They've taken back to the Manor Ground old favourite Hugh Curran, the wandering centre-forward whose travels have taken in Wolves, Norwich, Millwall and Bolton, and Brian Drysdale an effective full-back over the past few years for Hartlepool,

Lincoln and Bristol City.

Cardiff City on the other hand are hoping a young striker by the name of Graham O'Shea will turn out to be their trump card.

Graham has been unable to break through at Manchester City — hardly surprising in view of the competition of Royle, Kidd and Tueart, and if he does as well at Ninian Park as Tony Evans, scorer of 50 goals since his free transfer move from Blackpool, the Welshmen will be well satisfied.

Into the same category come Colin Gregson (Sheffield Wednesday signing from West Brom), and David Essor (Everton to Rochdale) both promising young players frustrated by lack of opportunity in the First Division.

It's not only the unknown players who are hoping a change will be for the better.

Cardiff's Derek Showers, a Welsh international just two years ago, has dropped into the Fourth Division with Bournemouth; Alan Foggon, hero of Middlesbrough's record Second Division promotion year in 1974, finds himself at Southend; and Henry Newton, once of Everton, Nottingham Forest and Derby, has linked up again with his old boss Dave Mackay at Walsall.

And perhaps the most remarkable reflection of the changing face of a footballer can be seen at Hartlepool — the Fourth Division club who rarely make the headlines. In addition to Irish international Eric McMordie they'll also have lining up for them in 1977-78 Dick Malone, star of Sunderland's 1973 Cup Final win over Leeds, and Tommy Gibb who was at Wembley the following year with Newcastle United.

MAKING A FRESH START...

transfers after the side won promotion to the Third Division.

"When I looked at the lists of players being released by other clubs I wondered if I had done the right thing. Some of those half-dozen were infinitely better than the majority of men who came on the market.

"And yet I'm delighted a player like Tommy Horsfall, who couldn't get a regular place in our side, is having another go at Halifax. They may have picked up a bargain — and for the player's sake I hope so.

"Ian Seddon, who was with Bolton and Chester before us, has got fixed up at Rochdale, and there's no reason why he shouldn't do a good job for them," he added.

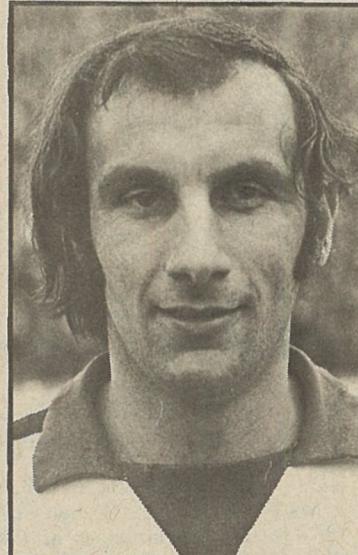
Cambridge also released Keith Bowker and after only a year with the club he finds himself back at Exeter where he scored so many goals.

Atkinson himself has signed Terry Owen, the former Everton, Bradford City and Chester striker, on a free transfer, and has high hopes of him.

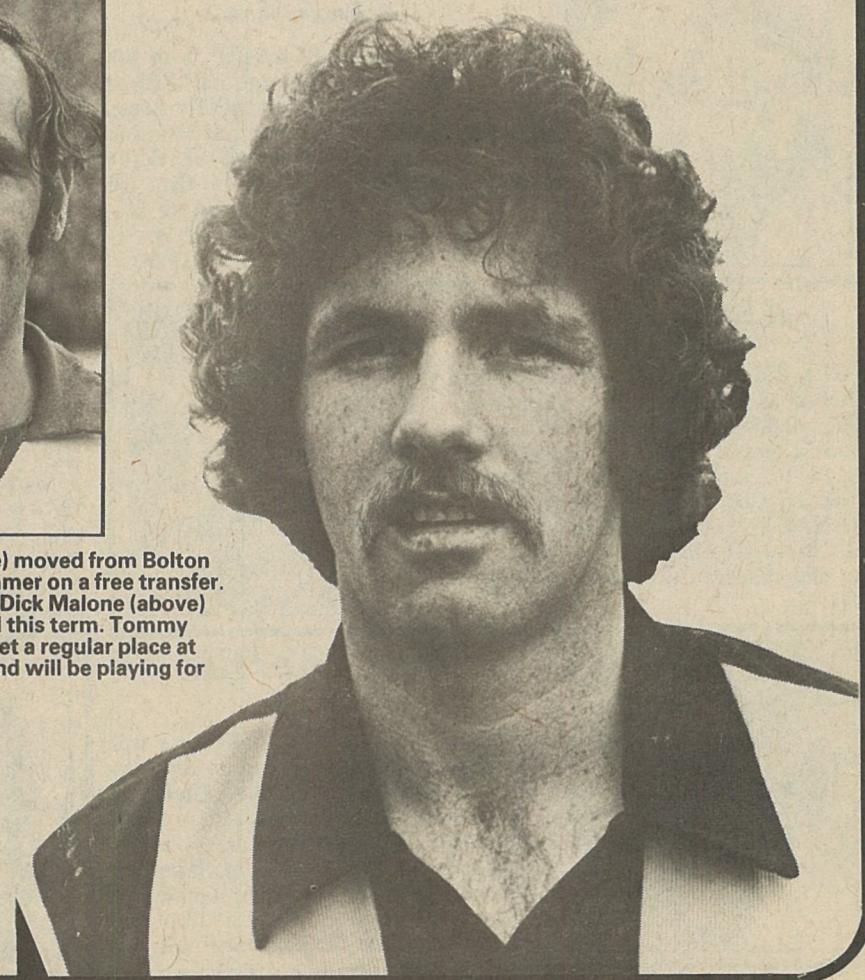
"Terry is the sort of player who can do our club and himself a lot of good. His record at Chester was excellent, and I'm looking for him to add a lot of strength to our squad.

"I could also do with a couple of big strikers. Jim Hall who helped us up to the Third Division in the closing stages of the season has gone back to Northampton, but although he is having cartilage trouble I would still like to have him here permanently, and there's another experienced striker I have my eyes on as well."

"Nowadays you have to scour the free transfer market, because the money just isn't there to sign the players you would like. There's a lot



Hugh Curran (top of page) moved from Bolton to Oxford during the summer on a free transfer. Former Sunderland hero Dick Malone (above) will line up for Hartlepool this term. Tommy Horsfall (right) failed to get a regular place at Cambridge last season and will be playing for Halifax in 1977-78.



22 of ENGLAND'S BEST

We list the major honours won by the First Division managers.



Terry Neill

(ARSENAL)

AGE: 35. AS A PLAYER: 59 full international caps for Northern Ireland. Joined the Gunners as a 17-year-old in December, 1959. AS A MANAGER: Had a spell as team-manager with Northern Ireland. He was player-manager with Hull City in 1970, and later moved on to Spurs. Joined Arsenal as boss during the summer of 1976-77. No honours at club level.



Gordon Milne

(COVENTRY CITY)

AGE: 40. AS A PLAYER: 14 full England caps. Second Division Championship (1961-62) with Liverpool. First Division Championship (1963-64 and 1965-66) also with Liverpool. AS A MANAGER: European Tournament (1971-72) as England Youth team manager. No honours at club level.

Ron Saunders

(ASTON VILLA)

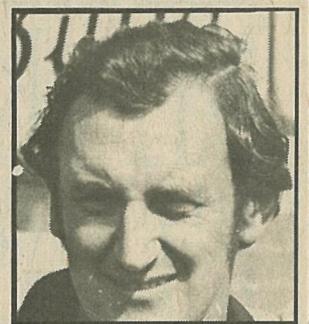
AGE: 44. AS A PLAYER: None. AS A MANAGER: Second Division Championship (1971-72) with Norwich City. League Cup winners (1974-75 and 1976-77) with Aston Villa. Manager of the Year (1974-75).



Colin Murphy

(DERBY COUNTY)

AGE: 33. Born in London, Colin was formerly a professional with Crystal Palace, but his League career was cut short by a leg injury. AS A MANAGER: Reserve team coach at Nottingham Forest. Moved to Derby along with Dave Mackay in 1973. Promoted to the manager's post when Mackay left the Baseball Ground last January. No honours at club level.



Gordon Lee

(EVERTON)

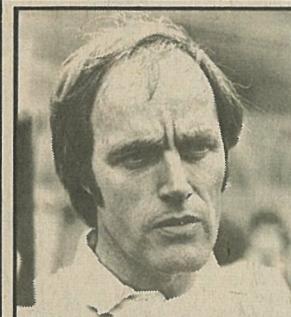
AGE: 40. AS A PLAYER: League Cup winner (1960-61) with Aston Villa. AS A MANAGER: Promotion from the Fourth Division (in 1969-70) with Port Vale. Third Division Championship (1974-75) with Blackburn Rovers. Led Newcastle to the League Cup Final in 1975-76. Beaten finalists last term with Everton.



Willie Bell

(BIRMINGHAM CITY)

AGE: 38. AS A PLAYER: Two full international caps for Scotland. Played well over 200 first team games for Leeds United, winning a Second Division championship medal in 1963-64. Willie was transferred to Leicester City for £40,000 in 1967-68. The following season he joined Brighton. AS A MANAGER: Appointed in October, 1975.



Bobby Robson

(IPSWICH TOWN)

AGE: 44, AS A PLAYER: 20 full caps for England. In 1956 he moved from Fulham to West Brom but in 1962 Bobby rejoined Fulham for £20,000. AS A MANAGER: Left Craven Cottage in 1967 to become manager of Canadian Club Vancouver. Returned to manage Fulham in 1968. Bobby again departed from Fulham to take over Ipswich. No honours at club level.



Jimmy Armfield

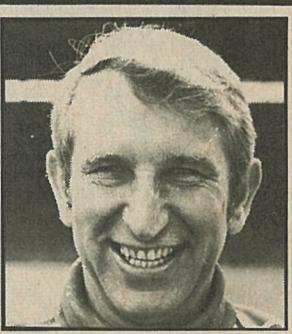
(LEEDS UNITED)

AGE: 38. AS A PLAYER: 43 full England International caps. Made his first appearance v. Brazil in 1959. Jimmy joined Blackpool from school. AS A MANAGER: Led Bolton to the Third Division Championship (1972-73). Became manager of Leeds United in October, 1974, and took them to the European Cup Final in 1974-75.

Alan Dicks

(BRISTOL CITY)

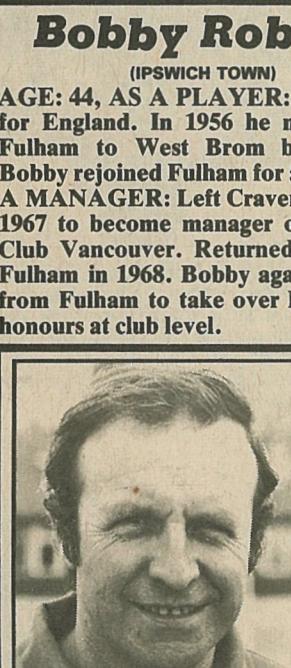
AGE: 43. AS A PLAYER: Joined Chelsea as a 17-year-old in December, 1951, making his League debut in the 1953-54 season. In 1958 Alan was transferred to Southend. Then he joined Coventry City as Asst. manager. AS A MANAGER: Appointed boss of Bristol City in October, 1967, and he took the club back to the First Division in 1976.



Ken Shellito

(CHELSEA)

AGE: 37. AS A PLAYER: One full England International cap in 1963 v. Czechoslovakia, and one Under-23 appearance v. Yugoslavia, also in 1963. Spent all of his playing career, which was cut short by injury, at Stamford Bridge. AS A MANAGER: Appointed boss of Chelsea in July, 1977, after several years on the coaching staff.



Frank McLintock

(LEICESTER CITY)

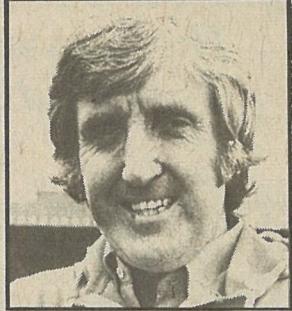
AGE: 37. AS A PLAYER: Nine full caps for Scotland. Captained Arsenal to Fairs Cup win (1969-70) and League and F.A. Cup 'Double' (in 1970-71). Footballer of the Year (1970-71). Awarded the M.B.E. in 1972. Appointed manager of Leicester City, June, 1977.



John Bond

(NORWICH CITY)

AGE: 44. AS A PLAYER: Second Division Championship (1957-58). F.A. Cup (1963-64) with West Ham. AS A MANAGER: He guided Bournemouth to promotion from the Fourth in 1971 and took Norwich to the 1975 League Cup Final.



Bob Paisley

(LIVERPOOL)

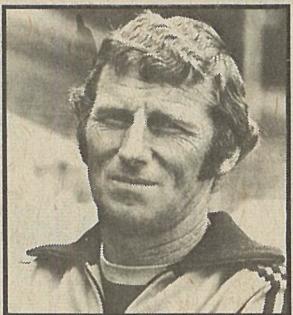
AGE: 57. AS A PLAYER: F. A. Amateur Cup winners (1939) with Bishop Auckland and League Championship (1946-47) with Liverpool. AS A MANAGER: League Championship (1975-76 and 1976-77). European Cup winners (1976-77). U.E.F.A. Cup winners (1975-76). Manager of the Year (1975-76 and 1976-77).



Tony Book

(MANCHESTER CITY)

AGE: 42. AS A PLAYER: League Championship (1967-68). F. A. Cup (1968-69). League Cup (1969-70). European Cup-Winners' Cup (1969-70) all with Man. City. AS A MANAGER: League Cup (1975-76).



Dave Sexton

(MANCHESTER UNITED)

AGE: 47. AS A PLAYER: Chelmsford, Luton, West Ham, Orient, Brighton and Crystal Palace. AS A MANAGER: F.A. Cup (1969-70). European Cup-Winners' Cup (1970-71) with Chelsea. Also had spells as a manager or coach with Orient, Fulham, Arsenal and Q.P.R. Replaced Tommy Docherty in July.



John Neal

(MIDDLESBROUGH)

AGE: 45. AS A MANAGER: In his first full season in charge at the Racecourse Ground, Neal guided Wrexham to promotion from the Fourth Division in 1969-70. He brought the Welsh Cup to Wrexham in 1974-75. Took over at Ayresome Park during the close-season.



Richard Dinnis

(NEWCASTLE UNITED)

AGE: 35. AS A MANAGER: Following Gordon Lee's departure to Everton, Dinnis took over the reins in mid-season as acting manager. He did extremely well and guided the club into a U.E.F.A. Cup place for the coming season. Was officially appointed boss in May.



Brian Clough

(NOTTINGHAM FOREST)

AGE: 41. AS A PLAYER: Two full international caps for England. AS A MANAGER: Second Division Championship (1968-69). First Division Championship (1971-72) with Derby. He guided Forest to promotion last term.



Frank Sibley

(QUEENS PARK RANGERS)

AGE: 29. AS A PLAYER: Third Division Championship (1966-67). League Cup (1966-67) with Q.P.R. AS A MANAGER: Always a firm favourite with the crowds at Loftus Road, Frank was appointed team-boss when Dave Sexton left to join Manchester United.



Ronnie Allen

(WEST BROM)

AGE: 47. AS A PLAYER: Ronnie scored two goals, including a penalty, for West Brom against Preston in the 1953-54 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley. Five full International Caps for England. AS A MANAGER: Had spells as manager of Walsall, Wolves and in Spain.



John Lyall

(WEST HAM)

AGE: The club refused to disclose his age. AS A PLAYER: His career was cut short by injury after only a handful of first team games. AS A MANAGER: F.A. Cup (1974-75). He took the Hammers to the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final in 1975-76.



Sammy Chung

(WOLVES)

AGE: The club refused to disclose his age. AS A PLAYER: Made his League debut for Reading in 1954. Transferred to Norwich in 1955. AS A MANAGER: In his first full season as a manager he took Wolves to the Second Division Championship (1976-77). Was formerly a coach at Watford, Ipswich and Wolves.

The ups-and-downs in the life of England's most controversial goalscorer

THE BANDY legs powered through the mud at a rate of knots no opponent could match. Harry Haslam stood rooted on the touchline. The pace, strength and shooting-power of Knole Juniors' centre-forward were too exciting to miss.

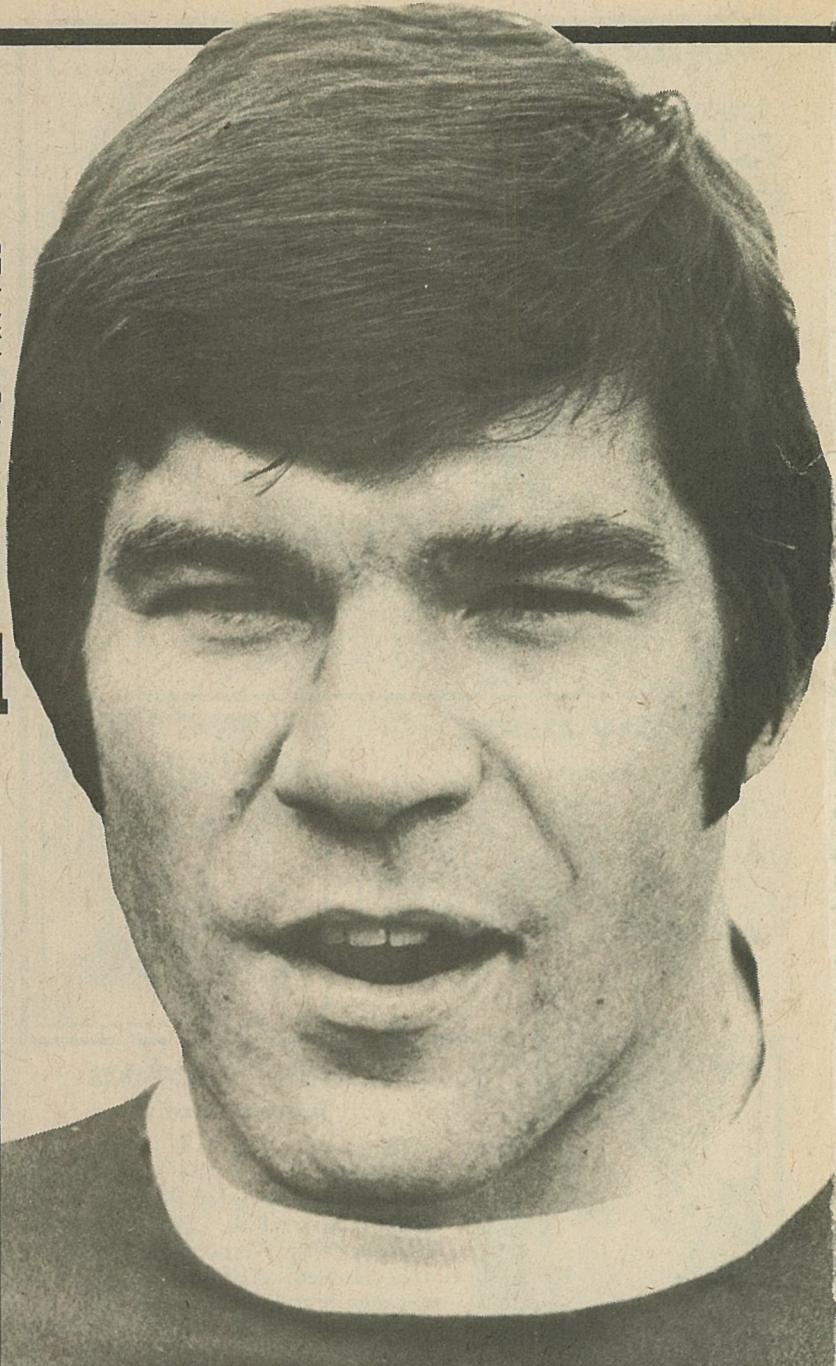
Impressed though he was, not

even the astute and wily Haslam could foretell that Arsenal would eventually pay £333,000 for Malcolm Ian Macdonald who, in July, 1967, was a play-anywhere park footballer with no reputation outside the Sevenoaks League.

Haslam, manager of Southern League Tonbridge, had no doubts.

The Malcolm Macdonald Story

PART ONE



Macdonald's boyhood idol at Fulham was Johnny Haynes (left). A young Malcolm Macdonald (right).

He approached Macdonald, impressed the brash young hopeful by coming straight to the point, and Macdonald was equally direct: "Yes, I would love to play for Tonbridge."

Since that fateful afternoon, Macdonald has played for four League clubs, won 14 England caps, terrorised defences throughout the land and captured the imaginations of thousands of youngsters, sick and bored with method football, negative tactics and centre-forwards who rarely enter a penalty-area.

At Tonbridge, Haslam began moulding Macdonald — no easy task because he had his own ideas about just about everything. But a mutual respect grew and blossomed into a firm, lasting friendship.

"Harry was the biggest influence on my career," says Macdonald. "My father, Charles Macdonald,

was an amateur with Hull City. He taught me a lot about the game. But Harry gave me no quarter. He played me at right-back to make me use my right foot, centre-half, both wings and left-back.

"His philosophy was simple but brilliant. The best way to learn how to beat an opponent or contain an opponent is to play in his position. I learnt the true value of experience at Tonbridge."

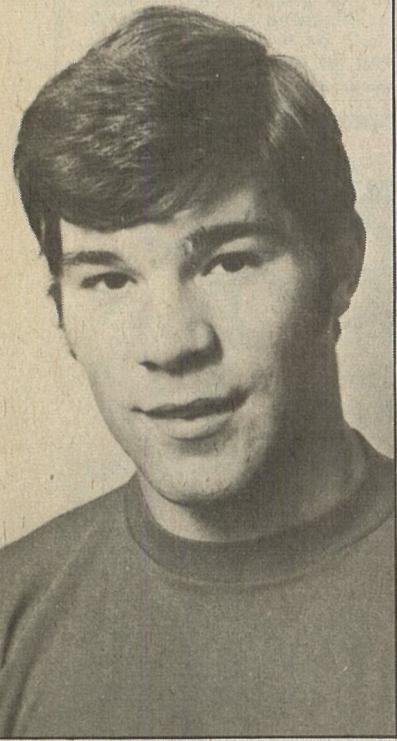
By 1968 Haslam had moved to Fulham. And although Crystal Palace offered Macdonald terms, he saw Fulham as the fulfilment of two dreams — playing for his boyhood idols and staying with Haslam.

Fulham reserves looked to be as far as Macdonald would get in his first season. A strong-tackling, speedy left-back, he was prepared to wait for his chance then grab it. But when that chance came, manager Bobby Robson picked him at



Supermac (white shirt) scores for Fulham against Norwich City at Craven Cottage in October, 1968. Macdonald (below) again in a white shirt . . . this time for Luton Town against Sheffield United.

DROPPED~ BY HIS BOYHOOD IDOL



centre-forward against Oxford United.

"I was born up the road from Craven Cottage and idolised Johnny Haynes from the terraces as a schoolboy. Imagine how I felt when I stepped out in a Fulham shirt . . . alongside Haynes.

"My haunting memory is of sticking the ball in the Oxford net twice . . . only for both 'goals' to be ruled offside. But I was already single-minded. I liked the experience. I knew I belonged in first team football and vowed to hold my place."

Macdonald's vow lasted exactly eight full games and two as substitute. He scored his first League goal against, ironically, Crystal Palace and went on to net four more. But Fulham were on their way down to the Third Division. Robson was sacked. Haynes took over as caretaker-manager.

If Macdonald thought his career would develop under his former idol he was in for a sickening and bitter disappointment. He was dropped, ignored, forgotten and eventually told he would struggle to make the grade as a professional.

Macdonald gritted his teeth and shook off the frightening wave of doubt that threatened to envelop him. "I knew they were wrong," he says, "I had already asked for a small rise, £5 to be exact. But that was refused. The reserves and probably the elbow was shaping up as my future at Craven Cottage."

Fate agreed with Macdonald. Fulham had indeed made a mistake. Fulham reserves' final game of that season was at Luton — where Harry Haslam had moved after Robson's sacking.

Manager Alec Stock and coach Jimmy Andrews were in the stand watching Fulham's stocky left-back. They liked what they saw. And they listened intently to Haslam's advice.

Just when Macdonald's football career looked to be ebbing away from him, Luton swept him away from Craven Cottage in exchange for £18,000 — a typical piece of Stock genius on the transfer market.

"Luton had already decided I was joining them as a striker,



despite the fact their one and only sight of me was when I played in the back-four.

"I chatted over my change of fortune with my wife, Julie, and instinctively we knew our corner had been turned. My career was back in my own hands and moving our home to Luton was the beginning of a career I had longed for since I was a 13-year-old at Sloane Grammar School."

Macdonald was an instant hit with the Luton fans. He played in every one of their 46 League games as Luton won promotion to the Second Division at the end of his first season, 1969-70.

His consistency, ability to absorb punishment without protest and his 28 goals trebled Macdonald's value inside 12 months.

Surrounded by journalists at the end of that promotion season, Macdonald turned to the media and waved his fist: "My target next season will be my target for every season hereafter . . . 30 goals."

Next week in part two we examine how Macdonald not only kept his promise but attracted scouts from First Division clubs by the dozen.

'PART-TIME WIMBLEDON WILL BE WORKING FLAT-OUT FOR PROMOTION'

**says skipper
Glen Aitken**

OF ALL the 92 clubs in the Football League perhaps the one whose results will be followed with most interest in the early weeks of the season will be Wimbledon.

That's natural, of course, for any side new to the League is bound to attract attention.

As would be expected there's a mood of optimism all around Wimbledon's Plough Lane ground — and why not after the club's sterling Cup achievements in the F.A. Cup over the past few years?

Yet the club's skipper Glen Aitken probably knows better than anyone the glamour and the glitter of matches like the ones against Burnley, Leeds and Middlesbrough, mean nothing at the side of a full season's slog against the likes of Halifax, Darlington and Hartlepool.

Glen has known the disappoint-

ment of being a Wolves and Gillingham castaway and when he joined Wimbledon could be excused for thinking his days as a League player were over.

"At first I thought I could play my way back into the League, but then I started to think I was being naive and if it hadn't been for the set-up at Wimbledon I doubt if I would have made it back.

"Wimbledon's approach impressed me as being very professional immediately, but I honestly don't think there are any other Southern League clubs who are in any way comparable.

"We were the exception rather



than the rule, and I was lucky it was Wimbledon I joined rather than any other non-League side."

Glen believes Wimbledon's decision to stay part-time despite the elevation to League status, will cause other Third and Fourth Division clubs to look carefully at them with a view to following suit.

"Most Fourth Division clubs operate on a very low level of interest and their players are scraping a living.

"Crowds are small and I think our experiment will be followed very closely. We will be regarded as a test case and if we do well other clubs will consider turning part-time, I'm sure."

Glen knows there will be a few humps to overcome on the way, and he reckons the early teething troubles will be more at administrative level than on the playing side.

"The only thing I would say to our players is not to be overawed. I have seen enough skill in our side to know we should do well not just in the Fourth Division, but the Third as well.

"At one time the Southern League was a stopping place for players on their way down, or lads with certain aspects of skill but not enough to play regular League football. I believe that has changed and certainly it is not the case at Plough Lane.

"We've all been looking forward to getting a crack at League football and now we've got the chance we're not going to let ourselves down. Make no mistake. Wimbledon will be working and playing flat-out for promotion," he says.

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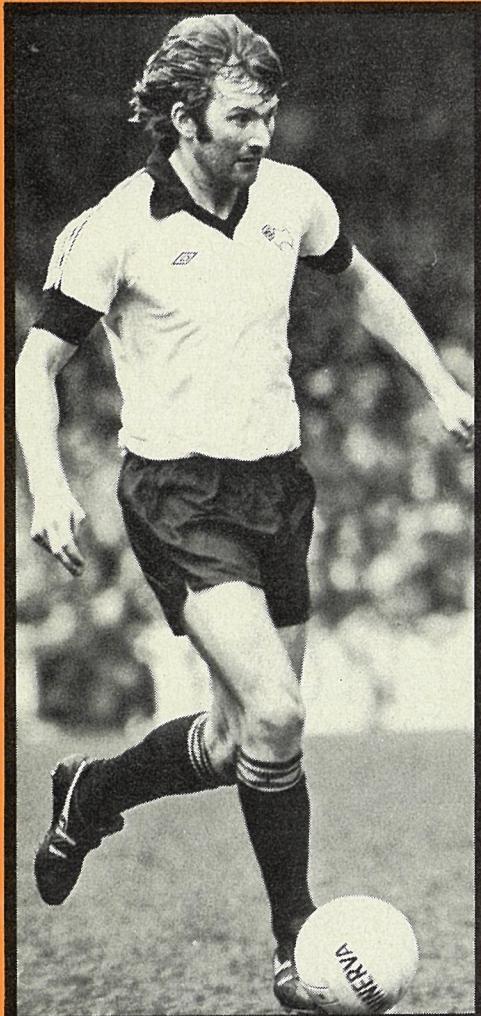
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ABOVE . . . Leighton shows his skill for Derby.
BELOW . . . Scoring Wales' third goal against
Czechoslovakia in the World Cup-tie at
Wrexham. This goal could be vital if the group
is decided on goal-difference.

FOR a variety of reasons, last season was perhaps the most remarkable Derby County's wing-wizard, Leighton James, has experienced in his mercurial career.

The former Burnley flyer, whose fiery temperament and often arrogant attitude during a match, has brought him into conflict with opponents, referees, and a large number of First Division crowds, has bluntly stated that if he attempted to tone down his playing style, he would become a far less effective performer.

Says Leighton: "I've always been a cheeky-type winger, arrogant, if you like, and, as a result, I've had to take plenty of stick from defenders. I've never been slow to retaliate, either, and this again hasn't made life any easier for me, as far as the ref is concerned.

"Mind you, there are some very fine and very fair defenders whom I enjoy playing against, but there are others who aren't too particular about the methods they use to try and stop me. I often wish I was the sort of player who could get up and ignore this kind of aggravation — but, I'm not.

"I did make an effort, during the first half of last season, to stay clear of any involvement with trouble. No back-chat, walking away when I got kicked up in the air, keeping my nose clean with referees, all that sort of thing.

"The crowds at away games were still picking me out for their abuse, though, and, what to me was far more serious, I was playing rubbish!

"I was worrying so much about burying my 'bad lad' reputation, that I just couldn't get my own game together, either for my club, or country.

"Last November, Wales' team-manager, Mike Smith, called me off in the World Cup qualifier against Scotland, at Hampden Park.

"Before the game, Mike told me that, for tactical reasons, he was switching me from my usual position at outside left, to the opposite flank. I didn't like the idea, and told the boss so. We had a bit of an argument over it, but I still went out and lined-up on the right-wing.

"Mike had no other alternative than to substitute me. I didn't have a good game, and perhaps the fact I went into the match with a chip on my shoulder had something to do with it.

"I was still in a rut with my club, Derby County; and quite frankly, I wasn't surprised when Mike dropped me for the World Cup game with Czechoslovakia, at Wrexham, last March.

"But, despite all the controversy that boiled up before and after the game with Scotland, and my poor showing in that match, the boss gave me another chance when John Toshack dropped out

through injury.

"This time I was determined to prove my past form, both with Wales and Derby, had been a mistake, that the only way I could do myself justice was to play my natural game, which has always been based on confidence in my ability to take people on, and beat them.

"Against the Czechs, I was my old self, continually involved, and was delighted with my performance in our 3-0 victory. At the same time, I think I showed I'm a far more effective player on the left flank than I am on the right.

"From then on, my club form continued to improve, to such an extent, the Derby fans voted me the club's 'Player of the Year!' And that's a bit different to what they were calling me earlier in the season."

No doubt about it, James, fiery, cocky, arrogant, call him what you will, is one of the most exciting and spectacular left-wingers in Britain.

He can take the ball past defenders on the outside, or the inside, with equal facility, has few equals at hitting beautifully-judged crosses into the middle while speeding along the touch-line, and can surge through a defence to crack home a goal.

Although Leighton invariably faces a barrage of abuse from opposing fans, he regards their noisy hostility as a compliment to his skill.

"I suppose it's intended to unsettle me, and therefore put me off my game," says the Derby wizard, "but, really, all the barracking lifts me. I know I'm getting under their skin, and being the type of player I am, I love it!"

His standing among his fellow-professionals is high, and most of his opponents will testify to his fierce competitiveness.

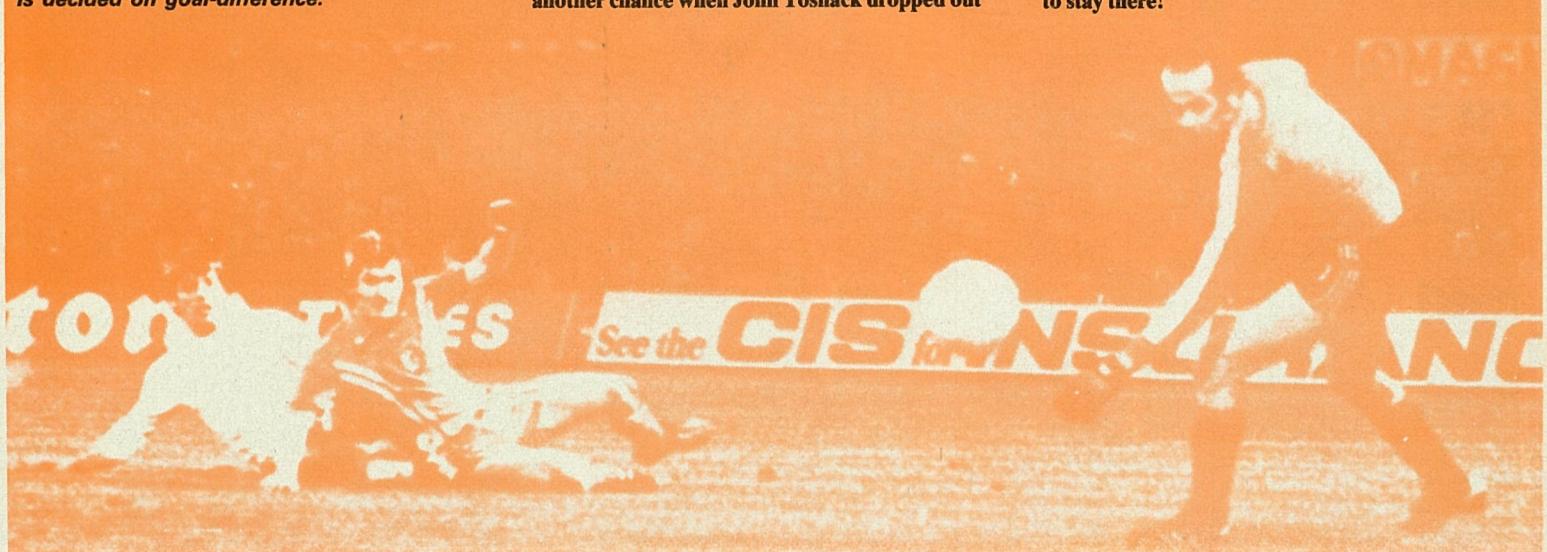
"James is one of the best wingers in the business," says Liverpool's Tommy Smith, who has been known to quell some of his rivals with a cold, hard stare, before a game, "and he has all the courage you would expect from a player who really attacks defences. He is apt to show his frustration when things aren't going right for him, but when this fella's on song, you daren't leave him for a minute."

Dave Clement, Queens Park Rangers' England international full-back, is another accomplished defender who relishes his duels with the Welsh firebrand.

Says Dave: "Leighton James would lose much of his impact if he tried to change his approach to the game. Away from home, crowds give him a hard time, and perhaps it's this touch of arrogance about his play, and his quick reaction to opponents who try to intimidate him, that rouse the fans.

"I've always enjoyed my games against him, and he's among the first to give you a handshake or a pat on the back, at the finish. He's a brilliant ball-player, a first-class opportunist, and he has this remarkable confidence in his ability to go at a defence, single-handed, relying purely on his skill. A great winger!"

Now, at 24, the gifted Derby star who cost The Rams £310,000 when he moved from Burnley, in November, 1975, and won the first of his 30 caps six years ago, eagerly awaits the challenge of a new season, determined to prove Derby County's flying, fiery Welsh dragon is back at the top — and means to stay there!







BACK ROW: Phil Neal (Liverpool), Emlyn Hughes (Liverpool), Dave Watson (Manchester City), Trevor Cherry (Leeds United), Ray Wilkins (Chelsea), Ray Clemence (Liverpool).

FRONT ROW: Stuart Pearson (Manchester United), Brian Talbot (Ipswich Town), Kevin Keegan (Hamburger SV), Mike Channon (Manchester City), Brian Greenhoff (Manchester United).

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S1/77
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Gola

PLAY TO WIN WITH GOLA

WATCH OUT for Ipswich! That's the warning to all First Division sides with Championship aspirations.

The East Anglian side, never out of the top six for the last five years, are a strong tip to be one of the main title challengers yet again.

Opposing defences will have to contend with an extremely talented attack including super-striker Paul Mariner, their £220,000 buy from Plymouth Argyle who played his way into the England squad after less than four years as a professional.

And Ipswich don't concede many goals. In front of 'keeper Paul Cooper they've got a brick wall defence comprising England stars Mick Mills and Kevin Beattie; Northern Ireland skipper Allan Hunter; and Scottish Under-21 starlet George Burley, the club's "Player of the Year" for 1976-77 and a first team regular since the age of 17.

In midfield the Portman Road side have England's latest discovery, Ipswich-born Brian Talbot whose non-stop running and aggressive style made him a big hit on the international tour of South America.

These are the Ipswich glamour boys, and when you add midfield man John Wark, another Scottish Under-21 cap, and front men Trevor Whymark and Clive Woods it is not difficult to understand why the bookmakers agree there is a good chance of the title going back to

take only five points from their first six matches.

His first outing came in the home game against Arsenal and he celebrated with one of the goals in his side's comfortable 3-1 victory. Then he was on target again seven days later when Ipswich won at Bristol City.

Not until Town's final home match of the season against Newcastle United did Osborne net his third goal but he had still made a vital contribution in a role that demanded a lot from him.

"We don't operate with a winger on the right side at Ipswich," he says, "so it means a lot more running for me as the midfield player on that side of the field.

"It's a job I enjoy, however, because I like to be involved in the game as much as possible. Making

all these appearances was a real boost because I was in the side on merit, not just because someone was injured."

Osborne is yet another player who didn't cost Ipswich a penny. But contrary to what a lot of fans believe, he is not a graduate of the famous Portman Road youth scheme.

He was, in fact, signed as a professional at the age of 21 and now, at 27, he smiles when he reads reports describing him as "youngster Osborne".

Ipswich may never have got the opportunity to sign Osborne had he not acted as chauffeur to his kid brother who attended midweek training sessions at Portman Road along with several other promising local boys.

"I played for a local side," he recalls, "and had long since given up hope of making the big-time. Rather than just stand around while the boys trained, I was invited to join in and did well enough to get a trial.

"That proved successful and I was signed as an amateur. Then after a run in the reserves I became a professional in October, 1971. Two years later I made my debut

away to Wolves. Meanwhile, my brother was never taken on.

"I know I don't get as much attention as some of the other lads but I'm not complaining. I've got a hunch it works both ways — when we're doing well they get the headlines but if we're having a rough time they get the bulk of the criticism.

"But every team in the country



has its bigger-name players and it's a situation you learn to accept. My main concern is keeping my place in the side because there are so many good young players coming through at Ipswich that no one can afford to relax."

Two seasons ago Osborne's ambition was to make ten first team appearances in a season and it didn't take him long to realise it. Now he hopes to be part of a title-winning Ipswich side.

"We are not over-confident," he says, "but I think we must have a good chance of winning the Championship this season. We're quite a young side but we've got young players with a lot of experience who know how tough it is up at the top of the First Division.

"I'm still working on improvements to my own game. Top priority is scoring goals, taking all the chances that come my way and getting into better positions when we're attacking.

"Maybe if I can improve my scoring rate it will also boost our chances of the title!"

The 'BACKGROUND BOY' who could put Ipswich in front

Suffolk for the first time in 16 years.

But one Ipswich player seems to grab fewer headlines than any other, despite the fact last season he established himself in the side that came so close to pipping Liverpool.

He's Roger Osborne, their hard-working midfield player who started the season in the reserves but ended as the regular first team number seven with 34 League appearances behind him.

Indeed, the inclusion of Osborne was a significant factor in converting Ipswich to title contenders after a disappointing start to the campaign which had seen them

Roger Osborne



Luque in action against England this summer.

Argentina's new star not wanted by his club!

INTERNATIONAL

LEOPOLDO LUQUE Argentina

THE summer friendlies which England and Scotland played against Argentina did not attract the sort of headlines true soccer fans like to read. But through the controversy, it was obvious that the World Cup hosts have a talented side with some outstanding individuals. Perhaps the best is Leopoldo Luque, a tall centre-forward who showed the sort of close control one associates with South America. Luque will probably be one of the stars of the World Cup Finals next year... yet just a few months ago his club, River Plate, were trying to get rid of him.

Leopoldo Luque curled up in a comfortable armchair, flattered by the "very kind things" the European Press have said about him.

"It's unbelievable, really. I didn't expect to become some sort of hero after our series against the Europeans. You see, for most of my football life people have been telling me I'd never make the grade. Only a short while ago my club were desperate to unload me..."

For all his attacking flair, Luque is quite and shy off the field. A conversation with him is punctuated by silences as he searches for the right word.

"Well, if you think SHOOT readers would be interested to read about me..."

"My father wouldn't let me sign for any of the smaller clubs in Santa Fe. He said if you were any good, they always refused to transfer you, which would be bad for my career."

"So just after my 16th birthday I joined Unión, the biggest club in Santa Fe."

"Two years later they kicked me out, saying I had no future in football."

"I drifted from club to club and by 1970 I'd had enough. I went back home and got a job as a scene-shifter in a T.V. studio."

"At the weekend I played for a side called Atenas de Santo Tome and it was there a funny thing happened."

"Scouts from Unión spotted me and signed me up again!"

"The turning point came in 1974 when Unión were promoted to the top Division."

Unión's manager was the infamous Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who was in charge of the 1966 Argentina side and Atlético Madrid when they played Celtic not too long ago.

"Toto, as we call him, was the first manager who ever talked to me. He gave me a lot of confidence."

"In 1975, Argentina manager Cesar Luis Menotti gave me a chance in his Santa Fe team that was going to dispute the South American Championship. I did quite well."

Menotti liked Luque's style and selected him regularly for the national side.

He says of his number nine: "I like the way he can cope single-handed with two or three defenders. His running off the ball is good; this is usually a weakness in Argentinian players."

As Luque made a name for himself with Argentina, the bigger clubs took notice. In 1975, the then Metropolitan Champions River Plate signed him for £110,000, which gave Unión a profit of £107,000!

"I was so delighted that I even forgot my boots for my debut in the 'classic' derby against Boca Juniors. I borrowed a pair from someone and scored our second goal."

The move turned sour in 1976 when Luque scored "only" 13 goals in 30 games.

"The fans were unhappy. River didn't want to release me for my

country. I had to tell Menotti I couldn't play for Argentina. Had I played River would have suspended me. I was caught in a crossfire."

Luque, 26, had a shock at the end of the season when he read in the Press his club were willing to transfer him.

"River is not a happy club. There were offers for me, but I'm still here. I can't say I'd be sorry to leave, though."

"Football is crazy. One minute you're up, the next nobody wants to know you."

"I remember a player at Unión called Toyé. I idolised him and everyone thought he was great."

"I was a nobody. Now, he's working in a bank and I'm Argentina's centre-forward!"

Luque, who won his 20th cap against Scotland, admits Argentina were erratic during the "European" friendlies.

"We did well in some games and poorly in others. Against England for instance, we were outstanding at times, but not over the 90 minutes."

"One of my defects is that I just can't get into a game sometimes."

"Personally, I prefer to run from deep positions rather than be a static number nine."

"Menotti has given me a lot of help and I hope I'm going to achieve my ambition of representing Argentina in the World Cup."

"To be honest, there have been times when I thought I hadn't a chance..."

WORLD WIDE

Compiled by Chris Davies

GERMANS LOSE RECORD

ARGENTINA beat East Germany 2-0 in Buenos Aires on July 12th with goals from Rene Houseman and defender Jorge Carrascosa. The date was important to the East Germans for this was their first defeat in more than two years. In that time they have won the Olympics soccer title and overall, played 21 games, winning 13, drawing seven . . . and losing to Argentina.



Big rows at Pele's club

PELE has turned down a \$10 million contract — the biggest in sporting history — to defer his retirement at the end of this season and stay with Cosmos for another two years.

Pele says he has done what he set out to do in helping soccer become established in America and is now ready to go home to Brazil. But as he prepares to leave, Cosmos are having problems . . .

Although they have had an average gate of 33,024 this season, higher than anyone else in the N.A.S.L. (overall attendances for the League passed the 2.5 million mark three weeks before the end of the season), Cosmos could miss the League Championship because of their poor away record.

There are tensions within the team, too. Italian superstar Gior-

gio Chinaglia punched teammate Steve Hunt during a training session recently and only the swift action of coach Eddie Firmani stopped it developing into a general brawl. Firmani said, without explanation, he had not been surprised by Chinaglia's outburst of temper.

It now appears Gordon Bradley didn't so much leave the coaching job to take on player-development duties, as was pushed . . . supposedly for not being the "yes-man" the directors wanted.

Though Firmani is no "yes-man" either, there is speculation as to whether he is trying to force Bradley's resignation from the club altogether.

Bradley had suspended Bobby Smith three weeks before Firmani's arrival, for spitting on the

team list and offering to fight Bradley.

"In my mind, Smith would never wear a Cosmos strip again," said Bradley.

But Firmani, to the anger of many of the rest of the team, has reinstated Smith. "It's a disgrace," said one player. "It gives any of us the right to kick over the team blackboard and raise a ruckus. The whole situation here is very bad."

Steve Hunt has said he will probably go back to England at the end of the season and is unlikely to return to the States. And Jomo Sono, the South African who has been billed as "Pele's successor" is also upset at the treatment he had received.

Bradley had been developing him as a fast and useful forward, but Firmani has completely ignored him.

EARLY START FOR THE POLES

POLAND became the first country to kick-off its League this season and at the end of July — one month earlier than usual — the clubs were back in action.

For the international stars, it was the briefest of close-seasons as they toured South America during June.

Even so, the Polish Press have been lavish with their praise for the form of the big stars, especially captain Kazimierz Deyna and goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski (right).

This season, however, the Polish League comes very much second to the priorities of the national side and clubs' commitments have been adjusted accordingly.

Poland have a few "warm-up" friendlies before they resume their World Cup-ties in September.

Whatever Poland's fate in Argentina (they're almost certain to reach the Finals) manager Jacek Gmoch will resign to resume his research studies afterwards.

'Pull out of World Cup'

BOLIVIA'S World Cup humiliation — beaten 8-0 by Brazil and 5-0 by Peru — has had far-reaching effects on their domestic scene.

One club suggested to the F.A. they pull out of the World Cup eliminating ties against Hungary for fear of further

embarrassment.

One fan of Bolivar, the country's top club, was so upset he committed suicide, while Peru fan Nicolas Mamai Tule was beaten to death by four youths after he had criticised his own side's performance against Bolivia.

Players of the Peruvian national team received a bonus of £475 a man for qualifying for next year's World Cup.

TRANSFER MARKET QUIET IN ITALY

THE ITALIAN TRANSFER MARKET was very quiet this summer, largely because clubs placed such high values on their stars. One club president pointed out that Hamburger SV paid Liverpool only one-fifth of the fee placed on the head of Giancarlo Antognoni by his club Fiorentina.

The most expensive player transferred was Pietro Paolo Virdis who moved from Division Two Cagliari to Juventus for 900 million lire . . . £600,000 plus two players. Among other transfers concluded were: Altobelli, Brescia to Inter; Gori, Juventus to Verona; Petrini, Roma to Cesena; Anquilletti and Silva, AC Milan to Monza.

Sandro Mazzola (Inter), now 35-years-old, has hung up his boots after 415 games in which he scored 106 goals.

ZEZE, outside-right of Fluminense, has been a sensation in recent matches since he was promoted to the first team. Although only 17, the Press already consider him a certainty for Argentina next year.

So watch out for the name — Zeze.

MUNICH 1860 are back in the West German Bundesliga and the first benefit of their promotion was seen when 20 new supporters' clubs were formed, bringing the total to 70! Together, these clubs have 5,000 members and a special board co-ordinates their activities.

REP SELLS HIMSELF

JOHNNY Rep found himself in a bit of trouble as the European Leagues got under way.

The 25-year-old Dutch winger bought up his contract from Valencia and planned to return to Holland and "sell himself".

Problem was . . . he was too expensive. Nobody could afford his fee AND salary. Then French League club Bastia stepped in with an offer which Rep accepted.



BRAZIL manager Claudio Coutinho plans to be at the England/Italy World Cup-tie.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St. London, SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

★ This week's Star Letter comes from C. Newbury of Amesbury, Salisbury in Wiltshire who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

MORE INCENTIVE NEEDED

I read SHOOT each week and I am distressed at the times I hear about people saying what's wrong with our football and our international teams.

The fact is: there's not a great deal wrong with our soccer... it's just the Europeans are better.

I had first-hand experience when I took my Amesbury Sports Under-14's to Germany for two games.

Although the teams were of the same age, the standard of the Germans was much higher. These boys are helped from a very young age by top players and coaches, given every incentive to reach the top.

This is where we fall down. Schools and clubs must be given more incentive. People say in these days of economic recession councils cannot give more aid, but how many readers know of teams struggling to make ends meet?

We must help the boys of today to become the stars of tomorrow — and if we don't start soon, the gulf between us and Europe will get even wider.

● Do youngsters take soccer as seriously as they did ten years ago? There are far more distractions these days. But it's always worth remembering that however much we may criticise our soccer... it's still the most popular in the world.

TRUE WORDS

Did anyone see Bill McGarry, the former Wolves manager, on T.V. the other week?

He's been out in Saudi Arabia and said about Don Revie: "He'll find the standard of players very low compared with the world-class players he had at Leeds and the good players with England."

Sounds somewhat strange, but a truer word has never been spoken.

GARRY MUSHENS, CLYDEBANK.



● I hope for Revie's sake he makes a better job of his new side than he did with England.

WHO'S BIASED?

When will Kenny Dalglish stop thinking that anyone who has anything to do with football in England is biased against his beloved Scotland?

In fact, it is he and his fellow Scots who are always looking for a reason to run down England.

The Scottish Press is very anti-English, yet as soon as anyone says something he doesn't like he writes about the "biased English."

Kenny, Scotland can be great and you are magic, but please... let your football do the talking.

MICKY JEFFS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD.

● I remember Alan Ball once saying he never used to be particularly anti-Scottish, but their bias and hatred of the English when it came to football turned him against the Scots. The problem is the Scots place too much emphasis on playing England. They get far more pleasure out of beating England than vice versa.

CELTIC RELEGATED?

If you are a fan of Arsenal, Celtic or Middlesbrough you are in for an unforgettable season — an unforgettable bad one, though.

These clubs all toured Australia this summer (Celtic here in action v. Red Star in Melbourne) and if they follow the pattern of last year's visitors — Spurs, Sunderland and Hearts — they will find out what it's really like to be Down Under... relegated, that is!

PETER JACKSON,
SYDNEY.

● I bet Arsenal wish they hadn't gone on the tour. It resulted in controversy and ill-feeling and Malcolm Macdonald and Alan Hudson being sent home.

THE day he took over at Old Trafford, new boss Dave Sexton promised... "to continue the Manchester United tradition of attacking football."

But Dave, one of soccer's quiet men, didn't make any hasty predictions except to recognise he has inherited a side with great potential.

"My aim," said Dave, "is to try and get the best out of the team Tommy Docherty built. If I can we can go a long way."

I met my new gaffer for the first time at The Cliff, United's training ground, a few days after his appointment, and liked him straight-away.

Talk to Dave Sexton and immediately you feel he's a man of integrity, a man you can confide in and trust.

Dave, a Londoner born in Islington 47 years ago, has spent his entire career with Southern clubs, but should find it easy to settle down in the North. Just as I did, following my move from Millwall.

He played for Chelmsford, Luton, West Ham, Orient, Brighton and Crystal Palace, and had coaching or managerial jobs with Chelsea, Orient, Fulham, Arsenal and, of course, Q.P.R.

A list of his achievements can be found on pages 18-19 of this issue so no need for me to repeat them.

My old boss Tommy Docherty, the man Dave has followed into the Chelsea and now Old Trafford hot-seats, has warned the job at United could be a lot tougher than expected.

I don't think Dave will find it that difficult because he has a ready-made team here, willing to give him 100 per cent effort and support.

Although he hasn't had much time to adjust to his new surroundings, Dave has already introduced a few of his own ideas.

Prior to United leaving for our four-match pre-season tour of West

Germany and Norway, he tried out a few set-piece moves which could pay off this term.

Goal-kicks, corner-kicks, free-kicks and throw-ins. We practised variations and were surprised how many of them came off.

What impressed most of the lads about the new gaffer was the way he got involved with us in training. He joined in everything.

Dave didn't just explain the moves he wanted us to make... he showed us.

Outwardly, Dave appears easy-going, but he's obviously a man who demands respect and total dedication.

I understand he can be an iron-man if necessary. That's how it should be if a manager is aiming for success. You can't afford to be a "nice guy" all the time in this business... it just doesn't work.

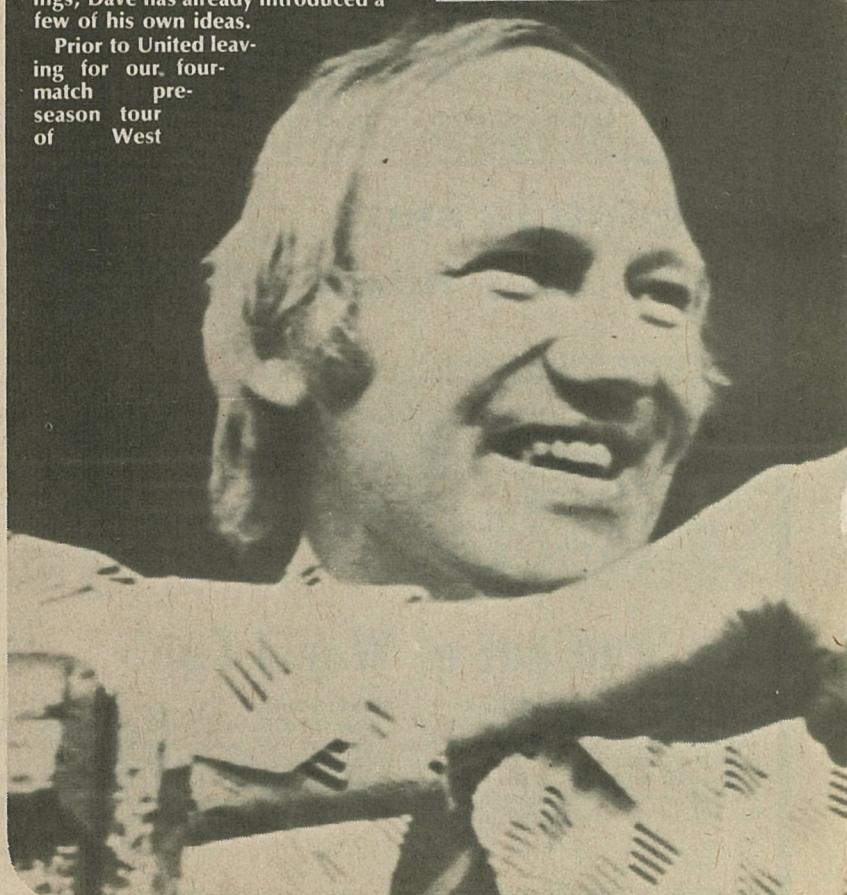
A day or so after taking over, Dave called the players together after training and said he was really looking forward to working with us.

Apart from tactical moves, he's introduced no new rules. So life at Old Trafford seems much the same as it's always been.

He went on to tell us he considers himself a lucky man to have taken over a club with Manchester United's traditions and unique atmosphere.

That's as may be. I also reckon United are fortunate to have been in a position to hand over the reins to one of the most respected

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL



coaches in the game today.

Arsenal wanted him as Terry Neill's right-hand man. He's been spoken about as a possible successor to Don Revie for the England job.

Only the lure of Manchester United was strong enough to coax him away from his Southern强hold.

This season will be the supreme test for Dave Sexton and the club. I'm sure — as is everybody connected with Old Trafford — we'll pass it with honours.

As I've said, Dave has made no rash promises for this season, but he obviously has his eye on the League Championship.

That's got to be the main aim of all First Division players and managers.

Winning Cups is marvellous, the

term.

French aces St.-Etienne will prove stern opposition in the First Round, but not that tough.

Last season's U.E.F.A. Cup battles with Ajax and Juventus taught us a few valuable lessons on how to play the Continentals. There will be no early exit this time.

My third aim for 1977-78 is to regain my place in the England side.

As you know, playing for my country means a great deal to me and I was very upset at being left out of the British Championship and South America tour games.

Perhaps the new England boss will recognise the worth of wingers to the side. I hope so, anyway.

But back to the club scene and the big kick-off to the 1977-78 season.

United start with a hard match in



prospect, away to Birmingham City.

Funnily enough, they were our opening day opponents last term at Old Trafford. We drew 2-2.

During the summer, manager Willie Bell has strengthened the team with the signings of midfielder Tony Towers from Sunderland and striker Keith Bertschin from Ipswich.

They will be going all out to impress the home fans on their League debuts ... so will "old boy" Trevor Francis.

Trev was in devastating form last season and despite summer speculation that he would be on the move is still very much a Blues player.

It'll be interesting to see how he fares up-front without Kenny Burns, who is now with Nottingham Forest.

United beat City 3-2 at St. Andrews last season, but this Saturday (August 20th) will be an entirely new ball-game.

So a difficult start for United and new manager Dave Sexton. Obviously we'll be playing for a win, but I'll be pleased to come home with a point from St. Andrews.

I'll definitely be looking for two in our first home game of the season v. Coventry City next Wednesday (August 24th), though.

Having said that, I think Sky Blues could well surprise a few people this term.

Join me next week when I'll be looking at the First Division and the teams likely to be challenging for the title.

Take care ...

'DAVE SEXTON'S PROMISE TO MAN. UNITED'

icing on the cake, but the League title is the ultimate in domestic football.

Naturally I believe United are good enough to topple Liverpool from their perch. We must use last season's F.A. Cup triumph as a stepping stone to greater heights.

Even without Kevin Keegan Liverpool will be the biggest threat to any side with Championship ambitions. The team that ends above them could win the title.

It's ten years now since United were League Champions. Far too long for this club.

Over the past decade Liverpool and Leeds United have ruled. It's time for a change.

I also believe we can win the European Cup-Winners' Cup this

United's assistant-manager Frank Blunstone (left) shows Dave Sexton around Old Trafford.



Action from the opening day of last season between Manchester United (dark shirts) and Birmingham. Both sides meet again on Saturday at St. Andrews.

PLAYERS

★ We asked a player from each Division to comment on prospects for



GEOFF NULTY

(Newcastle Utd)

IT'S impossible to look past Liverpool when thinking about the League Championship, even though the question arises as to how long they can keep on being successful. But in my view, Liverpool show no signs of losing their grip, and even without Kevin Keegan the amount of talent in the team almost guarantees they'll win something — if they don't collect the title and one Cup at least the season will be regarded as a failure.

At the other end of the League table, the relegation issue could involve Chelsea, who could be struggling in a higher class, and Norwich and Coventry, whose

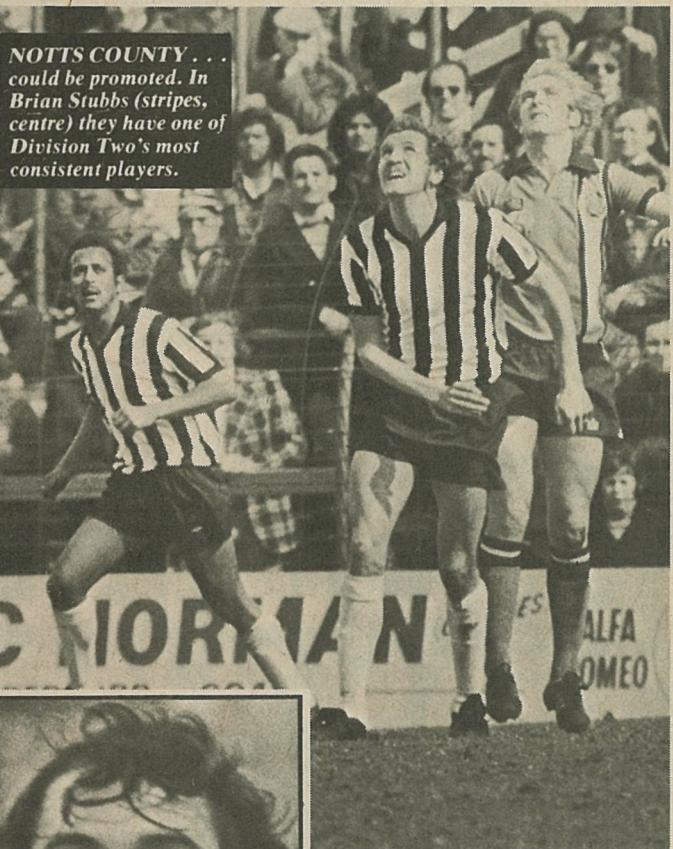
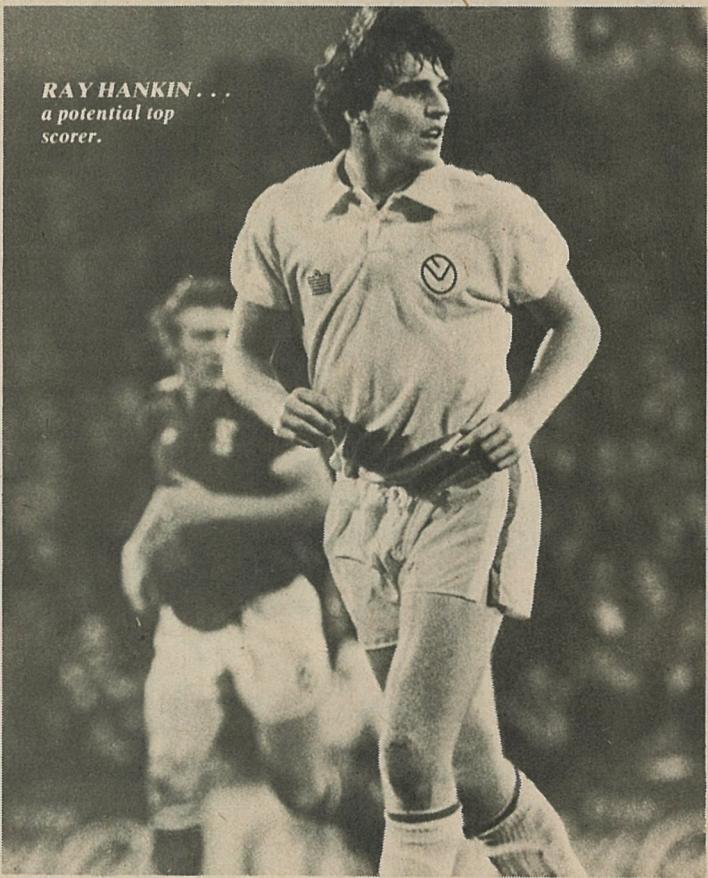
form was not convincing last term.

Sunderland are my promotion choice, partly because they have a manager in Jimmy Adamson with the flair and ability to get the most out of any team. And Bolton Wanderers, with the addition of two players to their side, could also go up — new blood may mean the difference between success and failure with them. Lastly, Southampton — they have the basis for a promotion side if they improve in consistency.

John Richards, of Wolves, is the man I plump for as a top scorer in Division One. He will be determined to prove himself in the top class, and is tremendously sharp in and around the penalty-area. Ray Hankin, of Leeds, is another potential top scorer.

Manchester City for the F.A. Cup and Everton for the League Cup are my two selections in the domestic Cup competitions. They have been steadily improving over the last two years, and now have the confidence to take on all comers. And Everton, under manager Gordon Lee, will come to the fore as a team that is tremendously hard to beat — their determination can make them lift the League Cup following last season's narrow failure.

RAY HANKIN...
a potential top
scorer.



MICKEY WALSH

(Blackpool)

FANCY Sunderland can win the Second Division (modesty prohibits me from mentioning Blackpool), because of their all-round ability, plus the will-to-win spirit which almost kept them in the First Division. The three young players who did so much to help Sunderland during their revival, Gary Rowell, Kevin Arnott and Shaun Elliott, are almost certain to distinguish themselves again. The club now has all the necessary confidence to succeed.

Along with Sunderland, other promotion candidates are Brighton and Notts County. Brighton are a high-scoring side who came up from Division Three last season in convincing style and can keep up this momentum to finish among the leaders. Notts County fell away last term, but have the resilience to bounce back. In the First Division, Chelsea's lack of

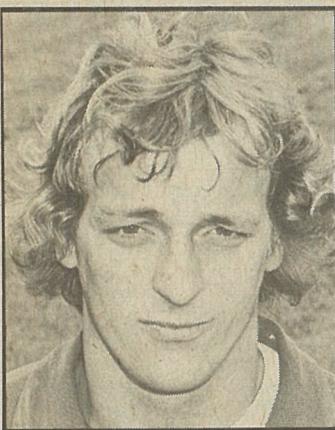
experience, and Coventry's and West Ham's lack of a winning formula could mark them as relegation candidates.

In the Second Division, my bet is that Bolton's Neil Whatmore could top the scoring charts during the next few months. Neil is a very good player who knows where the goal lies, and he has all the assets of an effective striker — quickness, accuracy and power in finishing. Another player with a goal-getting technique, who could rival his Bolton colleague, is Steve Taylor.

Leeds United for the F.A. Cup and Ipswich for the League Cup — United I take because they are too good to be written off as over the hill, and Ipswich on account of being a class side. And the disappointments of last season are sufficient to give both clubs the motivation they need to collect major honours.

ON THE SPOT

the new season, and to give their predictions on Cup, League, promotion and relegation issues.

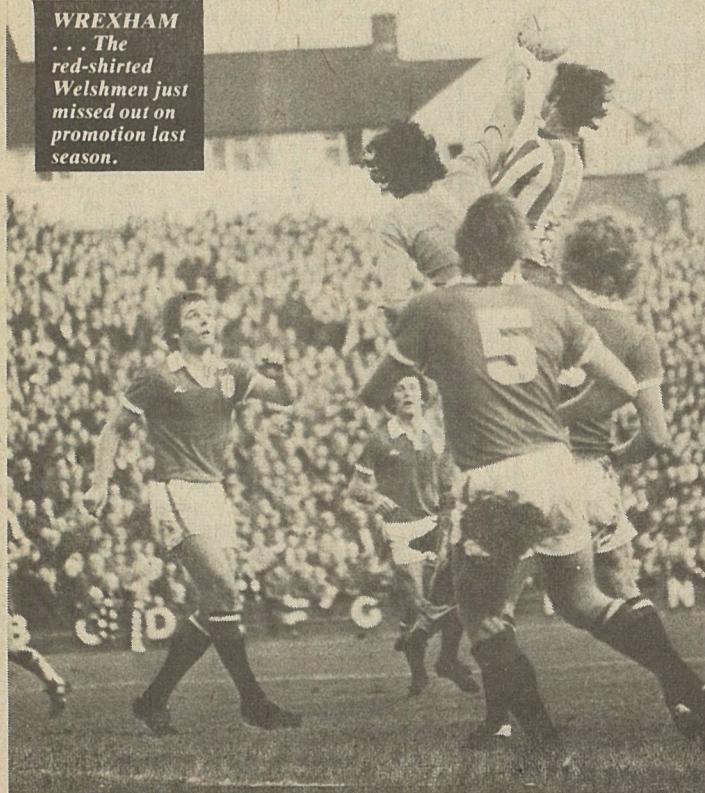


ROY TUNKS

(Preston N.E.)

WREXHAM are my tip to top the Third Division because they are a well-balanced side, steady at the back and hard to hold when they attack, with Mel Sutton an under-rated player in midfield. They had an impressive total of 80 in their goals-for column last season, which speaks for itself — Wrexham obviously go for goals and have their sights firmly set on Division Two.

WREXHAM
... The red-shirted Welshmen just missed out on promotion last season.



For the teams most likely to gain promotion to the First Division my fancies are Sunderland, Bolton Wanderers and Stoke City. If Sunderland had not had a disastrous first quarter of a season, they would never have been relegated, and they, along with Bolton and Stoke have the football ability to head Division Two. The clubs I think could be relegated from Division One are Chelsea, West Ham and Coventry, because Chelsea will find it hard to adjust to the top flight and West Ham and Coventry lack the all-round strength to stay up there.

A player I rate as a possible top scorer in the Third Division is Dixie McNeil of Hereford. He is a deadly finisher, with a highly-developed goals-sense who gets himself into excellent scoring positions. Dixie is in the goals-charts regularly every season and is not just a flash-in-the-pan striker — he takes a lot of marking and is very quick at snapping up the half-chance.

In the domestic Cup competitions, my choices to do well are Manchester City, Liverpool, Manchester United and Aston Villa. All of these sides have proved they can adapt themselves to the one-off conditions of Cup soccer. Also, I've a sneaking suspicion that Stoke City will surprise some people by having a Cup run.



BARRY LYONS

(Darlington)

LAST season, Swansea's total of 92 League goals was the highest in the four Divisions, one of the reasons why I fancy them to head the Fourth Division. They also attack away from home as well as on their own pitch and really blend well as a team — it is difficult to pick out any particular player in this all-action side, and their positive approach deserves success.

The teams I select to gain promotion in the Second Division are Sunderland, Brighton and Southampton. And Sunderland, who turned in so many fine performances in the second half of last season, should finish on top to return to the First Division — their set-up at Roker, loyal crowd and capable players, is first-rate. Brighton are a promising side with some good players who could surprise the opposition, and Southampton, in spite of last season's slump, are basi-

cally a sound team who could do better in future.

Top scorer in the Fourth Division? Brentford's Gordon Sweetzer is my man here, because he is one of the most goal-hungry players I've seen. He is very difficult to mark out of the game, and is always busy in and around the penalty-area. From past experience, I know the problems he can pose for a defence, and he seizes quickly on the half-chance.

Sunderland's Bob Lee and Mel Holden are two more possible high-scorers.

Manchester City for the F.A. Cup and Liverpool for the League Cup — these are my fancies in the domestic Cup competitions. With players like Tueart, Royle, Channon and Kidd around, City can open up any defence. And Liverpool are so devastating that they must figure as my League Cup winners.

BRIGHTON caused a bit of a stir in the close-season when they splashed a club record £100,000 to buy unknown defender Mark Lawrenson, from Preston.

It was a bold move from a progressive club who are determined to make a big success of life now they have been promoted to the Second Division.

And manager Alan Mullery is the first to admit they had no intention of spending that sort of cash when they first decided to go into the market.

Mullery — who capped his first season as a manager by steering Brighton to the Third Division top three — explains:

"At first all we were going for was a standby to cover for Graham Cross — someone to play in the reserves and come into the first team when necessary.

"But clubs were asking a ridiculous amount for this type of player. They were demanding £40,000 or £50,000 — and there was no way we were going to pay that for reserves.

"So then we decided to change our tactics and go in and spend big on a player who could come straight into the first team.

"I called all the staff together to discuss names of likely prospects. And they all came up with the same one — Mark Lawrenson.

"My chairman, Mike Bamber, and my coaching staff had all seen the lad play and were all impressed.

"And I thought he was tremendous on the three occasions I had seen him last season — twice against us, once at Crystal Palace.

THE SIGNING BRIGHTON PLAYERS VOTED FOR...



Mark Lawrenson and his new boss Alan Mullery.

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"With so many people raving about him, it was obvious he was the man we wanted — so we moved in and did the deal.

"I know a lot of people have not heard too much about him yet. But they will — believe me, they will.

"He is only 20, is big and strong and will make his mark in a big way.

"He settled down as soon as he joined us for pre-season training and seems to be enjoying life on the South Coast.

"The thought of spending that sort of money on an unknown does not frighten me. A football manager has got to be prepared to back his judgment and I'm sure Mark will turn out to be a huge success."

Mullery's only regret is the enforced change of deal brought Cross's time at the Goldstone Ground to an end.

Soon after Lawrenson arrived, Cross and full-back Harry Wilson moved to Preston as part of a deal that brought another defender, Gary Williams, to Brighton from Deepdale.

"Graham had an absolutely tremendous 1976-77 season for us and I can't speak too highly of him," said Mullery.

"When I first started planning for the new term I reckoned on having him in the side for our step up into the Second Division.

"Then events overtook us as I have explained, and things worked out differently.

"I wish him well at Preston and can assure their supporters they are getting one of the most honest lads in the game in Graham."

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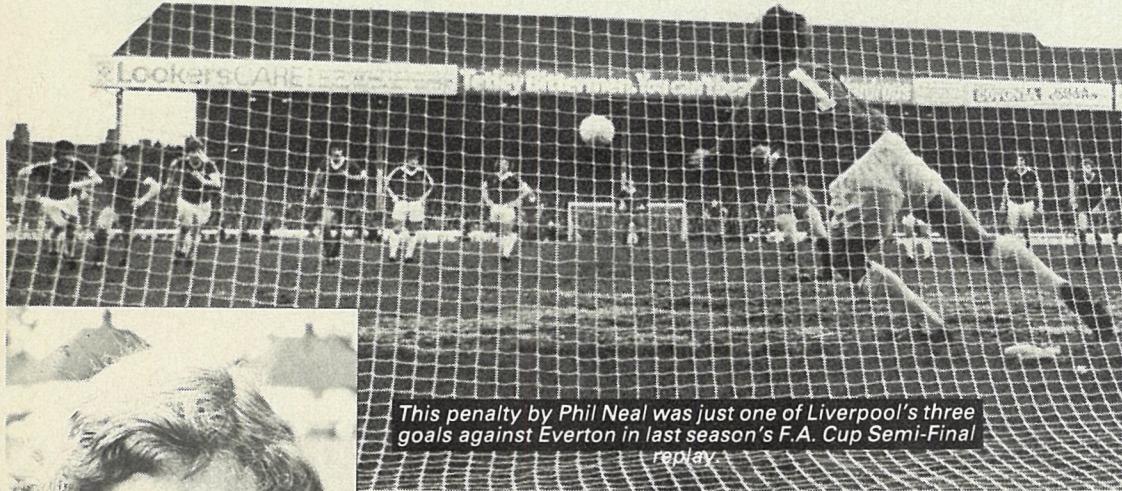
DOYLE: Well, Martin, it seems we were both the bridesmaids in our particular cities last season. You lost the League Cup Final replay while that team over the road from you, Liverpool, finished with an incredible double of Championship and European Cup. Manchester United eclipsed us by winning the F.A. Cup, although we did get the runners-up spot in the League.

DOBSON: Yes, in both our cases a question of so near yet so far. I think it would have been great for Merseyside if we could have won the League Cup and brought more success to the area.

DOYLE: It's better for a city to have two successful teams. It's not quite

CROSS-TALK

IN THE Northern soccer-crazy centres of Liverpool and Manchester there are two rival clubs. One overshadows the other, especially on Merseyside, where Liverpool have basked in so much success in recent years. What does it feel like to play for the side in the shade? We asked a player from each of the 'less-famous' clubs for his views . . .



This penalty by Phil Neal was just one of Liverpool's three goals against Everton in last season's F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay.



'It hurt when Liverpool beat us in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals' — Martin Dobson — Everton

the same thing being runners-up, but I still think there's a certain amount of prestige in coming second in the League.

DOBSON: We've found it hard living with the kind of success Liverpool have had in recent years. Everything we do seems to be overshadowed by them, and it hurt a lot when they beat us in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals last term. We should have beaten them in the first game but they won decisively in the replay. Do you find it a problem when United are doing better than City?

DOYLE: Not really. I think United have a long way to go to match the success we've had over the past ten years. They won the Cup last season but we took the League Cup in 1976 and we were in the Final two years before that.

DOBSON: You haven't had that much success in matches against

live in Southport so I'm not in the city centre a lot, but whenever I go to functions someone will say 'Oh, I'm a Liverpool supporter' as though they're something superior. Still, I suppose they've good reason to crow.

DOYLE: It doesn't make things any easier, does it? I don't really find that sort of thing a problem. The players tend to keep away from those sort of situations if possible.

DOBSON: Is there anything you can put your finger on as the reason for Manchester City failing to win the title last season?

DOYLE: No, it's very hard to say. I felt we were good enough to do it but Liverpool beat us by a point in the end. So somewhere along the way they must have been better than us. You had a bit of an up and down season didn't you, Martin?

DOBSON: You can say that again. Up until Christmas, our League form was erratic, to say the least, but it was interlaced with some very good Cup performances. It was only after the new manager, Gordon Lee, took over in January we started to find consistency in League matches as well.



'United have beaten us three times out of four in the League' — Mike Doyle — Man. City



Doyle on top against United at Maine Road.

DOYLE: The thing that really pleased me about our game last season was we had eleven men battling home and away which we haven't always had in the past. Now we've Mike Channon in the team and are really looking forward to another good season.

DOBSON: We're a lot more confident this time, too. Mike Bernard and Ken McNaught have both been sold since last season but we had far too many players. I think there were 22 in the first team squad last season, which is ridiculous. You can't expect so many good players to put up with reserve football.

DOYLE: Anyway, all the best for the season, Martin. Maybe next April you'll be the top side in Liverpool, if not the country.

DOBSON: Thanks, Mike. Good luck to you as well — here's hoping you turn the tables on the United fans, too.

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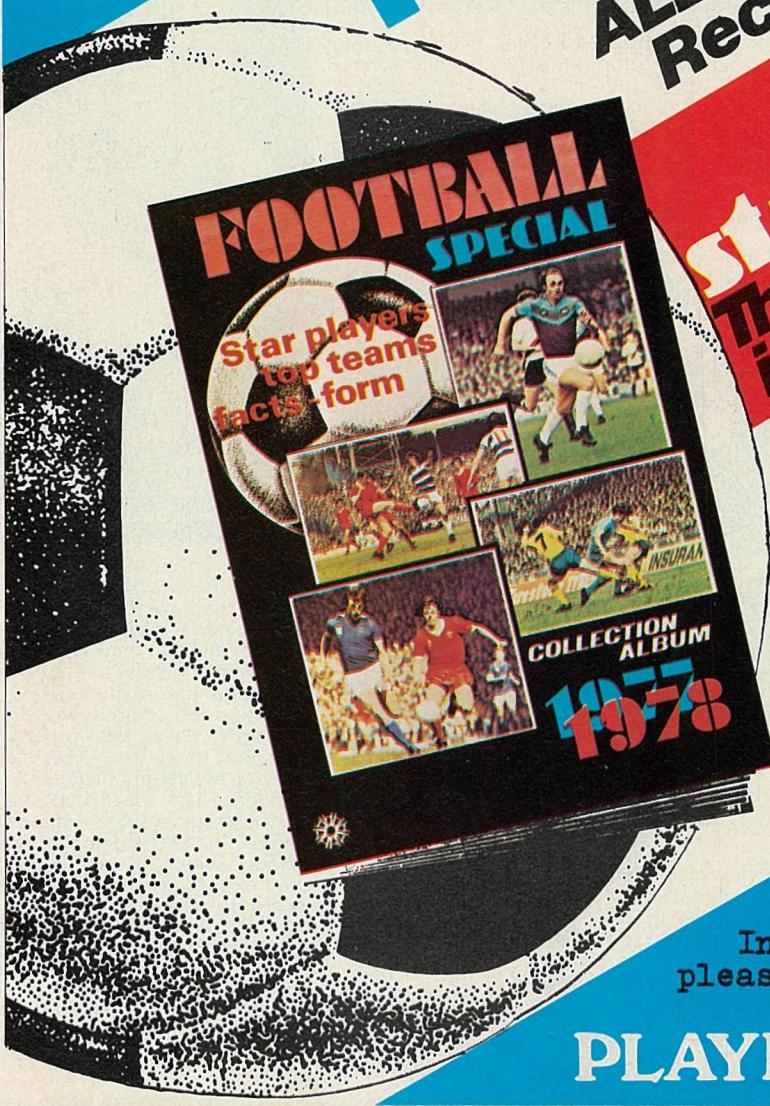
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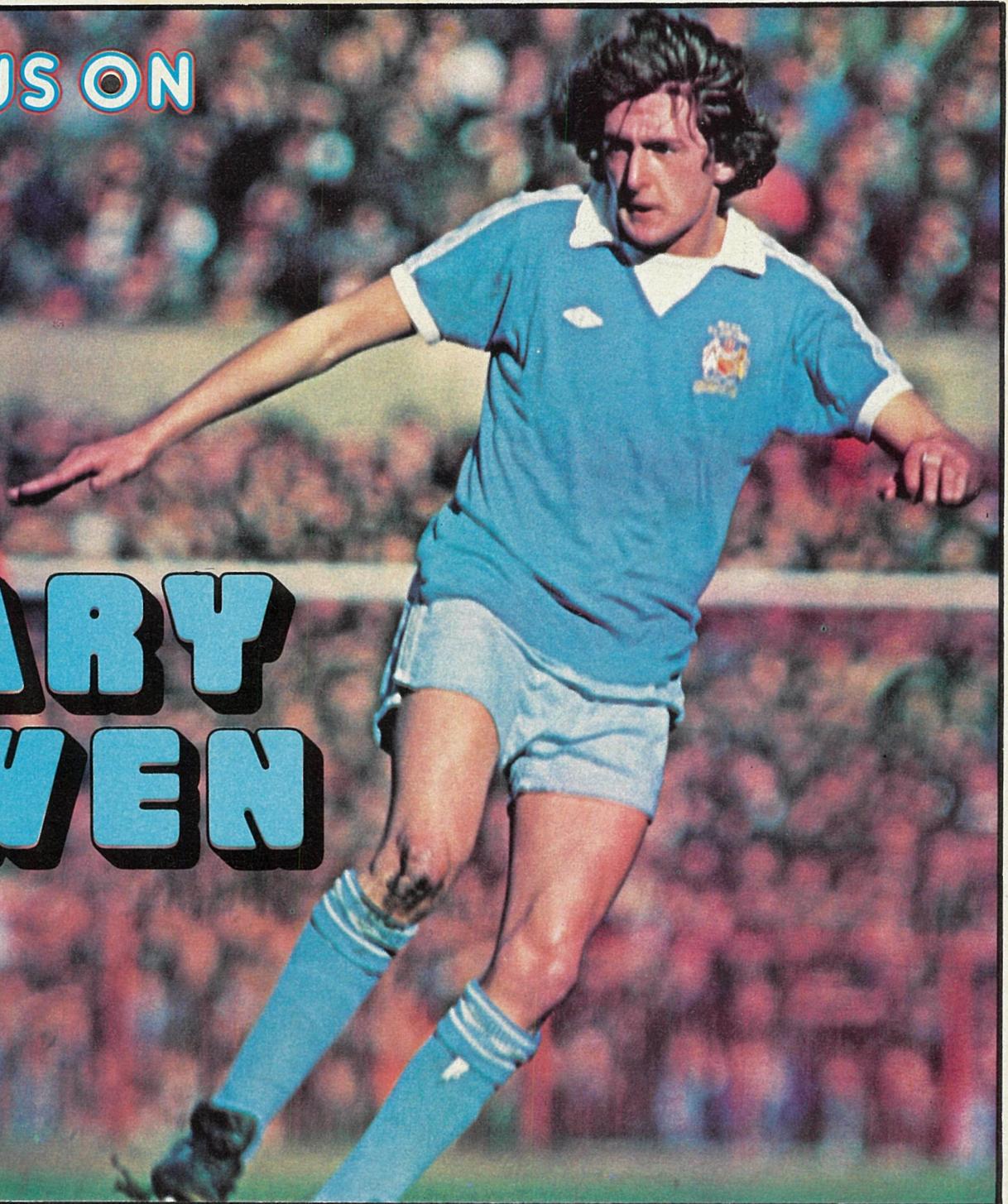
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FOCUS ON

GARY OWEN



Manchester City

FULL NAME: Gary Alfred Owen

BIRTHPLACE: St. Helens

BIRTHDATE: 7th July, 1958

HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins

WEIGHT: 10st 6lb

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

MARRIED: No

CAR: Escort Popular

FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

None in particular

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They're all difficult

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My League debut at home to Wolves

BIGGEST THRILLS: My League debut and playing for England

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Wales in the Youth tournament at Maine Road after leading 2-0

BEST COUNTRY VISITED:

Japan

FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and chips

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: All sports, driving

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Gardening, long coach journeys

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: The Sweeney, Porridge, Mike Yarwood

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart, Carpenters

FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood, Farrah Fawcett Majors

BEST FRIEND: Team-mate

Peter Barnes

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Being injured

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Youth and Under-21

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be successful and happy

IF YOU WEREN'T A

FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU

THINK YOU'D BE? No idea

WHICH PERSON IN THE

WORLD WOULD YOU MOST

LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad

Ali

Gary Owen

SHOOT!

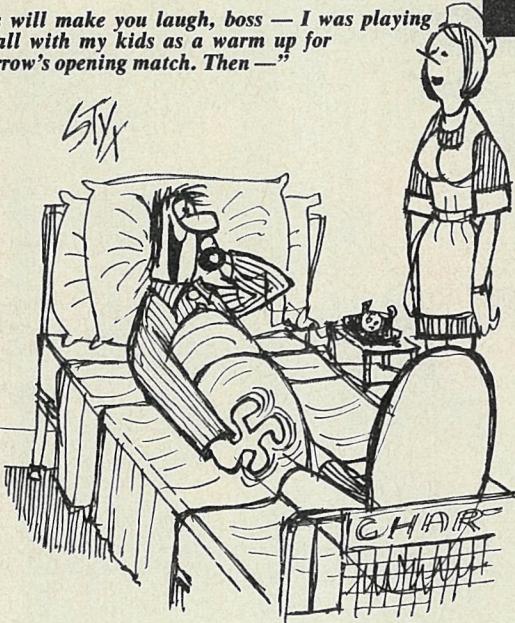
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Remember the start of the season in the good old days, Joe, when we use to fling open the gates and nearly get trampled to death"



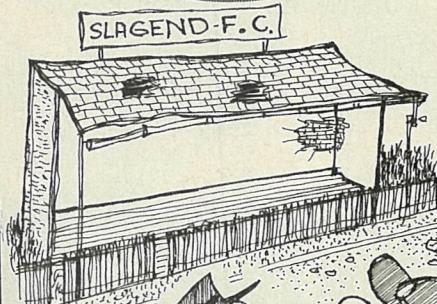
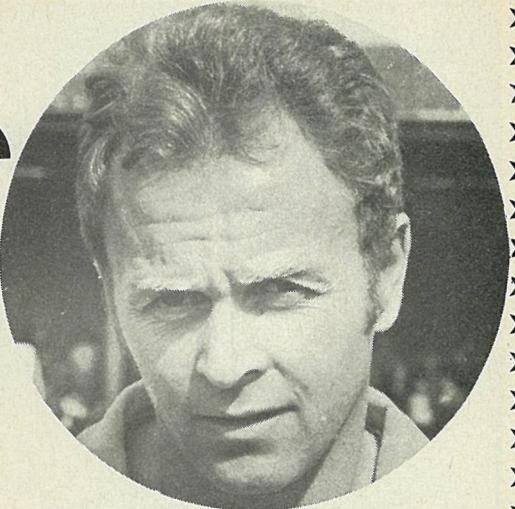
"This will make you laugh, boss — I was playing football with my kids as a warm up for tomorrow's opening match. Then —"



Wrexham player-manager ARFON GRIFFITHS kicks off the new season by selecting the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I can smell it, Fred — after ten minutes play we're already fighting to avoid relegation"



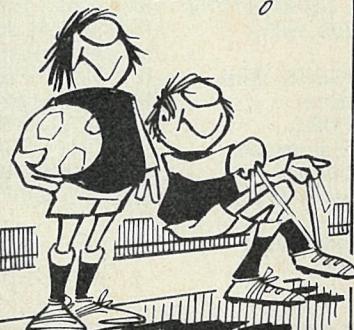
"The first thing I'll do if we win the F.A. Cup is to have that stand repainted"



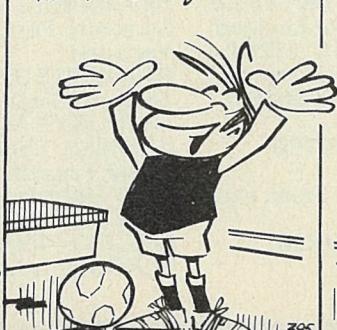
"First match of the season and you break a club record — a hat-trick with three own goals"

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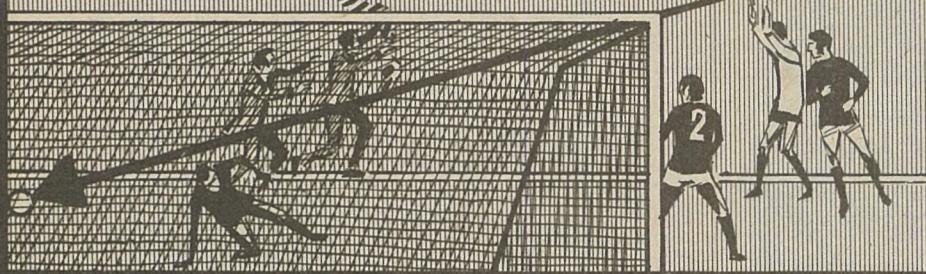


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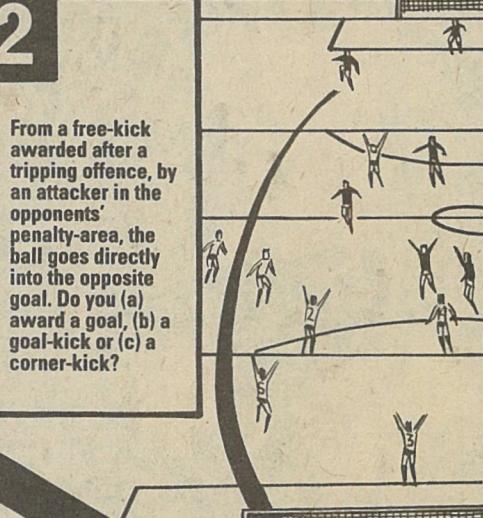
1

When the ball is kicked towards goal, two fans run on to the pitch between the ball and the goalkeeper. The 'keeper is distracted as the ball goes into the net. Do you (a) allow the goal, (b) award a goal-kick or (c) drop the ball?



2

From a free-kick awarded after a tripping offence, by an attacker in the opponents' penalty-area, the ball goes directly into the opposite goal. Do you (a) award a goal, (b) a goal-kick or (c) a corner-kick?



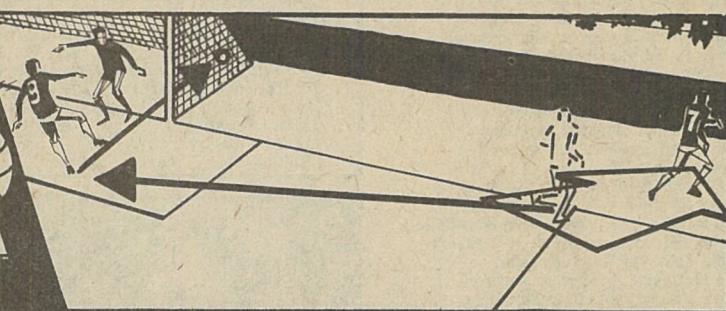
3

An attacker is standing in an offside position when a team-mate runs close to him, with the ball, and scores. Do you (a) award a goal or (b) an indirect free-kick for offside?

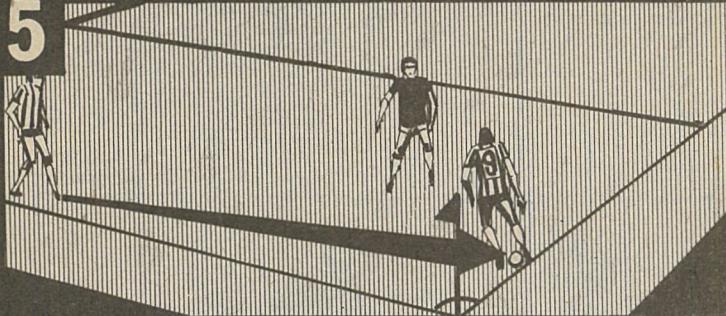


4

A winger pulls the ball back from the goal-line to a team-mate, who has only one defender between himself and the goal-line. Before he shoots into goal the winger runs over the goal-line. Do you (a) award a goal, (b) penalise the scorer for offside or (c) stop play and caution the winger for leaving the field?



5



A: An attacker takes a free-kick near the corner-post and passes the ball to a team-mate standing on the goal-line.

B: The ball is passed back to the first attacker. He then takes the ball to the corner quadrant and stands, with one foot on the ball, making no attempt to move it. (Where is the problem?)

ANSWERS

1. Drop the ball (c) because of the interference with the game.
2. Award (a) because the tripping offence is a direct free-kick award.
3. Award a goal (a) because the ball was not passed towards the player standing offside.
4. Award (a). The scorer was behind the ball and cannot be offside. The referee is not interfering with play or gaining an advantage.
5. The problem is in A. The second attacker must be offside because he is standing on the goal-line. In B it is not an offence to retain possession of the ball in this manner.

SLOUGH SHOCK



FULHAM fans, rocked by a series of boardroom squabbles as a bitter struggle for power raged at Craven Cottage, suffered their bitterest blow of all when skipper Alan Slough was transferred to Peterborough for £20,000.

The move shocked Slough, too, when he was first told about it. But all the reservations he had about moving vanished when he went to look at the Peterborough set-up.

"I was very impressed with what they had to offer and feel absolutely convinced I have made the right choice," says Slough — one of the most popular players Fulham have had for many years.

"At first I was hoping some other clubs might show an interest when it became known that Fulham were prepared to sell me.

"But once I had talked with Peterborough manager John Barnwell and had a look at the Third Division club's facilities I was sold on them.

"I am going to get the chance to do some coaching as well — so that makes it even more appealing."

Fulham's desperate shortage of cash forced them to sell Slough so cheaply. And Barnwell is not complaining about that.

TRANSFERS (July)

Steve Adams (Q.P.R. to Millwall)
Bill Bentley (Blackpool to Port Vale)
Keith Bertschin (Ipswich to Birmingham)
Phil Boersma (Middlesbrough to Luton)
Ian Bolton (Notts Co. to Watford)
Phil Boyer (Norwich to Southampton)
Kenny Burns (Birmingham to Nottm. F.)
Les Cartwright (Coventry to Wrexham)
Mike Channon (Southampton to Man. C.)
Bob Chapman (Nottm. F. to Notts Co.)
Graham Cross (Brighton to Preston)
Sam Ellis (Lincoln C. to Watford)
Arthur Graham (Aberdeen to Leeds U.)
Chris Guthrie (Sheff. U. to Swindon)
Bryan Hamilton (Everton to Millwall)
Phil Henson (Sheff. Wed. to Sparta (Holl.))
Derek Jeffries (Crystal Pal. to Chester)
Eddie Kelly (Q.P.R. to Leicester)
Ken McNaught (Everton to Aston V.)
Gerry O'Shea (Man. C. to Cardiff)
Ian Porterfield (Sunderland to Sheff. Wed.)
Mike Rogan (Workington to Stockport Co.)
Wilf Rostron (Arsenal to Sunderland)
Derek Showers (Cardiff C. to Bournemouth)
Alan Slough (Fulham to Peterborough)
Tony Tagg (Q.P.R. to Millwall)
Tony Towers (Sunderland to Birmingham)
Brian Williams (Bury to Q.P.R.)
Gary Williams (Preston to Brighton)
Harry Wilson (Brighton to Preston)

MANAGERS

Eddie McCreadie resigned as manager Chelsea
Ken Shillito appointed manager Chelsea
Tommy Docherty sacked by Manchester United
Dave Sexton resigned as manager Q.P.R. and appointed manager Manchester United.
Frank Sibley appointed manager Q.P.R.
Mike Keen appointed asst. manager Q.P.R.
Nobby Stiles appointed manager Preston with Alan Kelly as assistant.

Super Run

RELEGATED Tottenham will obviously be hoping they get away to a start as impressive as the one which put the White Hart Lane club on the way to the League Championship and F.A. Cup double in 1960-61.

Spurs won their first 11 games.

BRYAN'S STILL GOT 'THE BLUES'

MILLWALL newcomer Bryan Hamilton's £25,000 transfer from Everton recently was the 30-year-old Irish international's third move in six years.

Ipswich paid Linfield £30,000 for his services in 1971, and two seasons ago transferred him to Goodison for a £40,000 fee. The then Everton boss, Billy Bingham, had, as Linfield manager, sold versatile Hamilton to Ipswich in 1971.

Belfast-born Bryan, capped 38

ALBION ROVERS left-winger, Jimmy Coughlin, has stepped up a Division to join ex-Coatbridge team-mate, Peter Dickson, who joined Queen of the South two years ago. Dickson played a major role in pulling the Dumfries club away from the bottom of the Scottish First Division last season.

CLUBS worried over soccer hooliganism could copy an idea put forward by Middlesbrough.

Rows of seats have been taken out behind one goal to create a "families only" area for 2,000 spectators.

Chairman Charles Amer says: "We want parents to bring their children without the fear of trouble."

LINCOLN CITY who kick-off this Saturday away at Bury, will be out to extend a scoring sequence unequalled by any of the other 91 Football League clubs.

They are the only side with goals to their credit on the first Saturday of the last 11 Football League seasons.

ROCHDALE, who begin their Fourth Division programme away to Barnsley, have bitter memories of the opening Saturday two years ago.

In the 10th minute of the game at Reading, Tommy Youliden's shot appeared to hit the side-netting and bounce away for a goal-kick.

Players on both sides looked on in amazement as Redditch referee Bill Harvey (new to the Football League's supplementary list) awarded a goal.

A second-half goal by Stephen Hetzke gave Reading a 2-0 win.

BRIGHTER CLYDEBANK

PROMOTED Clydebank are determined to make their mark in the Scottish Premier Division. They will spend some of the £100,000 transfer fee from Rangers for Davie Cooper on a new flood-lighting system.

Manager Bill Munro has also signed a former Kilbowie Park player, Gerry O'Brien, from Swindon, and Gerry Colgan from Queen's Park. With more than 20 players on his books, 14 of them full-time, he's looking for another six to complete his playing pool.

Munro's message will be "Let's prove we can live with the big boys."

SUBSTITUTES were introduced by the Football League 12 years ago. And on that opening Saturday, Barrow (later to be voted out of the League in favour of Hereford United) made history.

Bobby Knox scored the first goal by a sub. against Wrexham. Later in the season the striker provided another football first — when he became the first substitute goalkeeper (in an emergency) to save a penalty-kick against Doncaster Rovers.



WILL this season's opening day crowds produce another upward trend?

A year ago the 46 Football League games drew 629,815 fans — an increase of 71,434 on 1975, explained by a boost of 64,599 to 384,319 in the First Division.

WILL the goals total for the 46 League games this weekend equal the best figure of the 1970's — 133 in 1971?

There will have to be a big boost on recent seasons. A year ago the new season was worth only 113 goals (31 in the First Division, 29 Second, 24 Third and 29 in the Fourth), but it was an improvement of 12 on the 1975 return.

AS reported in SHOOT last week, Birmingham City's young central-defender Joe Gallagher (above), who broke a leg in a car crash a few weeks ago, will not be able to play again until the end of the year.

Blues boss Willie Bell told us: "This is a big blow to the club, but it is a problem we must overcome."

Gallagher, rated a potential England player, has been the stalwart of the City defence for the past two seasons.



LEICESTER City 'keeper Mark Wallington (above), had a three-day respite from new manager Frank McLintock's rigorous pre-season training schedule. He went into hospital for the removal of two impacted wisdom teeth which had been causing him a lot of trouble. Mark was one of the City players under instructions from McLintock to lose weight before the start of the season.



BELATED best wishes to Luton Town's John Aston, who was voted the club's Away Player of the Year for last season. Here John receives his award from manager Harry Haslam and Jenny Dove, organiser of Luton's newly formed Away Supporters' Club.



LAURIE'S BIG TEST

LAURIE CUNNINGHAM (above), West Brom's £110,000 signing from Orient, had a disappointing end to last season which he hopes will not upset his form for the new campaign.

He was left out of Albion's side for the vital Aston Villa game because he was late for training.

But proof of his dedicated attitude now were his two goals in seven minutes at Ibrox on August 8th, when Albion beat Rangers to win the Tennent-Caledonian Cup. The England Under-21 star also gained an award of £150 as the outstanding player of the tournament.

The real big test for this brash and breezy Cockney could come over the next make or break 12 months.

Brave Bell on his way back

FOR the many fans of Manchester City and England star Colin Bell, the message is . . . "Colin is alive and well and hopes to be back in action this season."

The past two years have brought nothing but frustration for the former England captain, out of the game because of a leg injury.



At long last a little light has appeared at the end of the tunnel.

After months of heartbreaking effort, restricted to running up and down deserted terraces, and lonely slogging away with only City physio Freddie Griffiths as company, Colin has heard a specialist say there's nothing to stop him playing again.

Many times in the past few months Colin feared his playing days were over.

But not once did he give in or let his morale slip.

City manager Tony Book says: "Colin has nearly killed himself trying to get fit.

"The leg is still sore, and although he can run and turn, we mustn't expect to see the old Colin Bell. Not yet, anyway," concluded Book who believes the injury would have been enough to finish most players.

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

ULSTER CUP OPENERS

AS usual, the Northern Ireland campaign kicks-off on Saturday (August 20) with the opening games in the League-style Ulster Cup competition.

Since the tournament was launched in 1949, Linfield have emerged victorious on no fewer than nine occasions, Coleraine come next with five triumphs, and are followed by Glentoran (four), Glenavon (three), Crusaders (two), Larne, Distillery, Ballymena United and Ards (one each).

League Champions Glentoran, the current holders, face stiff opposition in League runners-up Glenavon, at The Oval, in what should prove to be the top game in Northern Ireland this week-end.

* The trophy was not competed for in 1952.

Jim at Dumbarton

FORMER Hearts 'keeper Jim Cruickshank, given a free transfer by the club at the end of last season, has signed as a part-time player with Dumbarton.

His first League game of the new season was against his old team-mates Hearts.

SHOUTS of "what a load of rubbish" will have a different meaning in future for Gillingham's giant centre-half Dave Shipperley.

For the big Ship found a novel way of keeping himself in trim during the close season. He got a job as a dustman with the local council!

Star-gazing

EARLY season visitors to Pontin's holiday hotels in the Spanish resort of Torremolinos were able to go star-gazing to their hearts content.

The stars in question were from the world of football, who had gone there for a break after the rigours of a hard season.

Among those who spent their holiday there were England striker Joe Royle, Norwich defender John Ryan and top managers Lawrie McMenemy, John Bond, Alan Mullery and Ron Atkinson.

And even though they were supposed to be on holiday some pretty fierce competition took place between them.

Atkinson, up-and-coming boss of newly-promoted Cambridge United, made this clear, when he told me: "John Ryan and myself went there as undisputed kings of the tennis court.

"And we managed to hold on to that title — despite the fact we were the victims of some diabolical line calls — particularly from John Bond."

AN OMEN?

FIXTURE COINCIDENCE (see feature on pages 2-3) . . . Halifax Town who meet Fourth Division newcomers Wimbledon on Saturday, were also the first opponents of the club voted out to make way for the Southern League Champions — Workington.

Halifax were 3-1 winners against the 1951 new boys — they had edged out New Brighton at the Football League A.G.M.

that year.

If Wimbledon are thinking of promotion in their first League season, victory against Halifax would be an important omen.

Three of the last four sides to meet Halifax on the opening day were promoted at the end of the season — Millwall, Charlton and Oldham.



ONE star hoping to dazzle fans with his own brand of magic this season is Everton's controversial Duncan McKenzie. A player with supreme skills, Duncan, who joined the club from Anderlecht for £200,000 last February, plans to use his wizardry to help Everton land among the honours.

Determined DONaldson

DAVE DONALDSON could make history this month — by becoming the oldest player ever to make a Football League debut.

Donaldson, a 36-year-old customs officer at London Airport, is a central defender with League new boys Wimbledon. And he has no intention of quitting now they have moved out of the Southern League.

Manager Allen Batsford explains: "Dave has told me he is determined to have at least one season in the Fourth Division. And, knowing him as I do, I would not dismiss his chances of doing it."

"He went like a bomb in pre-season training and practice matches to make it as difficult as possible for me to leave him out."

Despite his advancing years Donaldson still has a remarkable turn of pace — as Middlesbrough's highly-rated striker David Mills found out during last season's F.A. Cup-ties between the clubs.

Donaldson had the job of marking Mills — and kept him under tight control in both games.

WHO WILL score the first goal of the season? A year ago Bill Rafferty, making his debut for Carlisle in a Second Division game at Southampton, set the pace — in 32 seconds.

Fans back Norwich

NORWICH FANS have shown their loyalty to the team during the summer by rushing to renew their season tickets.

Demand has been so brisk the club banked a record £400,000 from the sales of seasons to satisfied customers.

This proves there is demand for the attractive football manager John Bond insists on.

Norwich had a very mediocre time last year — and hovered on the edge of the relegation zone for a long time. But this struggle was caused simply by a crippling injury list.

Canaries supporters obviously feel that with a fully fit squad Bond is the man to lead them into a serious challenge for honours.

He certainly pulled off quite an achievement in keeping them in the First Division against overwhelming odds last season.

Currie released

PAUL CURRIE, brother of Leeds and England star Tony, has been released by Isthmian League club Dagenham.

Currie had three years with Dagenham and played at left-back in the team beaten 2-1 by Scarborough in the F.A. Trophy Final at Wembley last May.

But Daggers boss Laurie Wilkinson is reshaping his side this season and has decided Currie does not fit in with his plans.



ABOVE . . . Sunderland goalkeeper Barry Siddall looks on anxiously as Aston Villa's Brian Little stretches for this centre.

RIGHT . . . Norwich goalkeeper Kevin Keelan is under pressure from West Ham, but he still seems to win on this occasion.



*What the
fans look
forward to-*

ALL-OUT ACTION . . .



LEFT . . . Manchester City's Joe Royle heads for goal — this time Big Joe's back in defence nodding the ball to safety for a corner against Derby.

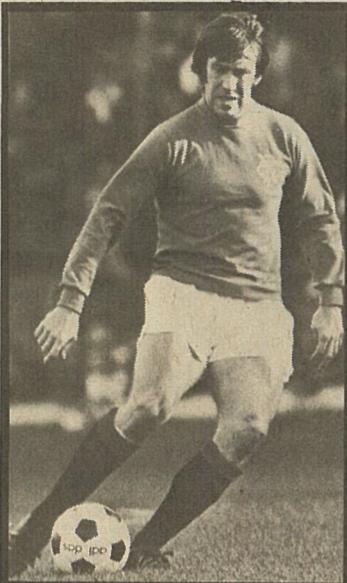
ABOVE . . . Millwall 'keeper Ray Goddard makes a point-blank save against Bristol Rovers.

PHEW! Excuse me while I get my breath back, but I really must admit I am excited by Rangers' prospects in the new season. I'm looking forward to the programme that is set down in front of us.

We'll have an early taste of European action right away when we meet the Young Boys, of Switzerland, in a Preliminary Round in the Cup-Winners' Cup. And, of course, there will be Premier Division and League Cup games, too, in our early agenda.

The close-season has been a bit of a drag for yours truly. I miss my football and I want to get involved in the thick of it again. Unfortunately I'll miss some of the early matches because of an S.F.A. suspension after my ordering off against Aberdeen at Pittodrie last term. I hope, though, I'll be straight back again in the team when my ban finishes.

Now, what about our prospects in Europe? I can tell our Swiss rivals that we are not only deter-



fans applauding wee Willie's skills. Celtic had the same situation with Jimmy Johnstone, too. Now Davie Cooper can prove to be a knockout.

Actually, I was pleasantly surprised by Davie's attitude at Ibrox. He is a boy who has always wanted to play for Rangers and there is no way that he will have to have his hat sizes increased although a lot of praise has come his way so early in his career.

Tartan Talk
JOHN GREIG

'Rangers won't go easy on Switzerland's "Young Boys"'

mined to beat them, but we want to do it in style.

We are still annoyed that we went out to another Swiss club, Zurich, in the First Round of the European Cup last season. We drew 1-1 at Ibrox and lost 1-0 in Switzerland.

Rangers just didn't play to anything like our top form in both those matches and now we want to show everyone what we can really do. I'm afraid I don't know an awful lot about the Young Boys, but I'm told they are not all that young! In fact, I read somewhere that they were a team composed of veterans. The mind boggles . . .

Anyway, we will be well-briefed by team-boss Jock Wallace by the time the tie comes around and we will be treating them with the utmost respect. The Young Boys could be Bayern Munich or Ajax as far as we are concerned. We will not be treating them lightly, I can assure you.

One player really excited about the prospect of playing in Europe is our £100,000 signing from Clydebank, Davie Cooper. If he is selected it will be his European debut.

I'm confident Davie's swash-buckling style will be a hit on the Continent. He's a tricky customer with a wide range of skills and the neutrals will take to him.

I can remember how Willie Hen-

derson used to amaze the crowds when we were away from home. We always tried to give him an early touch of the ball so that he could show right away that we were there to play football, real football, and not to get involved in any rough stuff.

It was always great to hear rival

Defences are in for a tough time of it once Davie settles in to our pattern of play. With Tommy McLean operating on the right and Davie on the left there are going to be an awful lot of full-backs having to work extremely hard whenever they face up to Rangers.

Yes, I think this is going to be a

good year for everyone at Ibrox. The attitude seems just right. I was heartened to see Bobby McLean working so hard in training.

Obviously the challenge for places in the first team will be nothing short of hectic and although Bobby was out of the top side at the end of last season he isn't going to let it get him down. He is raring to go, believe me, and that fierce competition must be for the good of Rangers.

And Colin Stein, too, hasn't lost any of his enthusiasm. Over the past couple of years Derek Johnstone and Derek Parlane have been the main spearhead with Martin Henderson and Chris Robertson coming in from time to time. Now, though, Colin wants a first team place again and he is prepared to fight all the way for it.

Stewart Kennedy and Peter McCloy have been in contention for the number one spot at Ibrox over the past four seasons, but now young Ronnie Lowrie is eager

to claim a first team place.

So, as you can see, Rangers are fairly well covered in most departments for the challenging season that lies ahead. It was only a year ago that the basis of this side was good enough to win every domestic honour Scotland had to offer. Can we do it again? Don't bet against us!

Anyway, I'll sign off now. I'll see you all in a fortnight. Stay safe . . .

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



Rangers won the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1972. Here Willie Johnston rises between two Moscow Dynamo defenders to head goal number two for Rangers in the Final.

SOCER'S vicious circle is revolving all the time. Youngsters are coming into the game, adorning it and decorating it with their various skills, growing older and passing on as the conveyor belt of talent relentlessly turns.

There is always someone waiting in the wings to take over. No one is irreplaceable, a successor can always be found. There is no shortage of youngsters ready to accept a man-sized job.

Scotland has been blessed with skilled individuals over the years. It may be a small nation, but just look at some of the players it has gifted to the game. Denis Law, Jim Baxter, Jimmy Johnstone, Willie Henderson, Billy Bremner, Dave Mackay immediately spring to mind.

The international squad must be one of the strongest in the world. Which country wouldn't want the likes of Danny McGrain, Kenny Dalglish, Joe Jordan, Andy Gray, Gordon McQueen, Don Masson and Archie Gemmill, among many others, to be available for selection?

Bill Shankly says: "Football is in the blood for the Scots. It's a way of life for them and they wouldn't have it any other way. Every father wants his son to be a footballer. They all hope and wait for the day when they might be able to pull on that international jersey. It means so much to them. I know how much it meant to me. All you need to do is wear that dark blue shirt and that little lion on the chest will do the rest!"

To say Scotland is a soccer-crazy nation is an understatement in the mould of someone agreeing that Liberace can play the piano. Or that James Hunt knows how to drive a car. Or that Roger Bannister could run a bit.

Challenges

There are many aspiring young Scots ready for the challenges and rigours that lie ahead. This week SHOOT looks at some of them. We don't have enough pages in this magazine to go through them all. They were unknowns a couple of years ago, but they are determined to make their names in a big way in the near future.

ROY AITKEN, the Celtic powerhouse, is already being called a veteran. Last season he helped the Parkhead men to a League and Scottish Cup "double" and would have made it a hat-trick had Aberdeen not pipped them in the League Cup Final. Amazingly, the versatile Roy is only 18!

One man who never had any doubts about Roy's ability to reach the very top is Celtic supremo Jock Stein. He saw Roy when he was 15 while he was playing for Celtic Boys' Club.

"That boy will be playing for the Celtic first team in about a year's time," said Jock... and, as usual, he was right. Aitken made his debut for the top side when he was 16. It was a tough game against Aberdeen at Pittodrie, but Celtic managed to win 1-0 and Roy was outstanding.

"I'll never forget that match," admits Roy. "I was desperate not to let the team down and I was delighted with the result. Funnily enough, I was more nervous before the next game the following week."

"It was probably because it was my debut at Parkhead in front of our superb fans. I didn't want to let them down. We played Hibs that day and I'm glad to say we won 4-0."

Now, two seasons later, Aitken is firmly entrenched as a first team player at Parkhead. He has settled into a midfield role and he proved on several occasions last year he can snatch vital goals when he breaks through.

"It was just great scoring two goals in our 2-2 draw with Rangers in a League match at Ibrox last season," says Roy. "I'm not noted as a goalscorer so that added to the pleasure. However, I don't mind who scores the goals at Parkhead. Just as long as we score one more than the other team I'll be happy."

One player whose job it is to stop goals is St. Mirren's no-nonsense centre-half BOBBY REID, who will be making his Premier Division debut this season. Reid, already an Under-



Arsenal are just one of the top English clubs interested in Dundee United's Graeme Payne.

shows you the ball, let's you think you know where he is going. But once you make your move... bang!... he's off and you are in trouble."

PAUL STURROCK and **DAVIE NAREY** are another two Tannadice starlets who are destined for the top. Sturrock is an exciting raider with the talent to take on defenders and beat them with delicate ease while Narey combines class with ruggedness at the back of the defence.

Hibs' versatile youngster **BOBBY SMITH** was in the unique position last season of having scored goals against both Celtic and Rangers... and being praised by Parkhead keeper Peter Latchford and Ibrox manager Jock Wallace!

He hit a superb first-time shot



St. Mirren centre-half
Bobby Reid already a
Scottish Under-21 cap.

21 cap, has no fears about facing up to big name forwards.

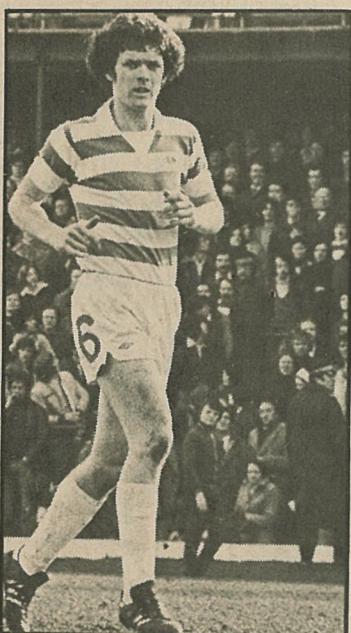
"It's the St. Mirren attack I wouldn't like to face," says Reid. "It's bad enough watching other defenders trying to cope with them during matches!"

Reid, who was the subject of a transfer enquiry from Bayern Munich last season, has a big future in the game, there can be absolutely no doubt about that. He is a tough, rugged character and St. Mirren fans say he is even better than their former centre-half Gordon McQueen... and that must be saying something!

GRAEME PAYNE knows all about the power of Reid... because he trains with him at Tannadice. Dundee United manager Jim McLean has offered facilities to Reid, who stays in Dundee, and the player trains regularly with the Tannadice squad.

Payne is already being talked about as being just as hot in the property market as his former team-mate Andy Gray. Payne must be one of the most skilful players North of the border and Arsenal are just one English club who have been watching his progress closely.

"It's so frustrating playing against Payne," says one rival defender. "He



Roy Aitken is only 18... yet he's being called a veteran.

against Celtic that hurtled past the helpless Peter Latchford, who said later: "There's not much you can do when a player connects with an effort like that. In all honesty I don't think I had a chance. All credit to the lad, he took his opportunity well."

Against Rangers at Easter Road, Hibs were struggling 1-0 down when the ball came to Smith about 35 yards out and he let fly with that trusty right foot. Peter McCloy didn't even have the chance to move as the ball zoomed high into the net. Jock Wallace said afterwards: "It was such a fine goal that I almost applauded it myself!"

Once Hibs get things ticking over on the field and find a consistent rhythm Smith's intelligent play will obviously benefit. At the moment he is the handyman of the side filling roles at the back, midfield and up-front.

Smith should come through this year. He has lived in the shadows of Pat Stanton, now with Celtic, of course, John Blackley and John Brownlie, but now he is ready to make his name. A player who can be praised by both Celtic and Rangers must have something big going for him.

DAVIE COOPER has had his fair share of the headlines since his £100,000 move from Clydebank to Rangers and undoubtedly the talented, speedy raider will continue to make the news as he settles into Rangers' pattern of play.

One Ibrox babe who could earn himself a place beside him in the team is **CHRIS ROBERTSON**, who made his initial breakthrough last season. Chris found it difficult at first, but he will get better with experience and manager Jock Wallace is looking for big things from him this season.

BIG in the

One of the unluckiest players in Scotland must be Partick Thistle's Under-21 goalkeeper **BILLY THOMSON**, who is the second best 'keeper North of the border in the opinion of Firhill boss **Bertie Auld**.

Thomson is unfortunate, of course, that Alan Rough is the first team 'keeper with the club. Auld says: "We are in the extremely fortunate position of having two international 'keepers at the club. I wonder how many other clubs can boast that!"

"Billy is the main reason we are willing to listen to reasonable offers for Rough. If Alan goes we have the youngster ready to step in and I have every confidence he would do well."

Two strikers who know their way to goal are Clydebank's **MIKE LARNACH** and Ayr's **DANNY MASTERTON**. There is a contrast in styles, but they are both just as effective.



Hibs youngster Bobby Smith was on target against Celtic and Rangers last season.

Larnach is a nippy attacker, who pounces on mistakes and punishes them severely. **Masterton** is a big and courageous forward who goes where brave go in search of goals in crowded penalty boxes.

Both could create havoc to rival defences this season, but two players who will be doing their utmost to keep them in check are Aberdeen centre-half **WILLIE GARNER** and Motherwell sweeper **GREGOR STEVENS**.

Billy McNeill going to Pittodrie to take over the management from Ally MacLeod could be the best thing that ever happened to Garner.

He will be able to coach and encourage Garner and his play will certainly benefit from that advice. Stevens is a defensive player who relies more on anticipation than crunching tackles to stop the opposition.

Once Stevens has more belief in his ability and Motherwell find a settled back-four he will be even more consistent.

These, then, are just some of the young players in Scotland who are likely to earn rave notices this term. They know that soccer is a tough game ... they know, too, once their shining talents begin to fade there is always another young star only too eager to replace them ...

STARS making

NEXT
WEEK'S
ISSUE:

FREE INSIDE: TEAM-TABS FOR THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISIONS

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A programme to suit every fan

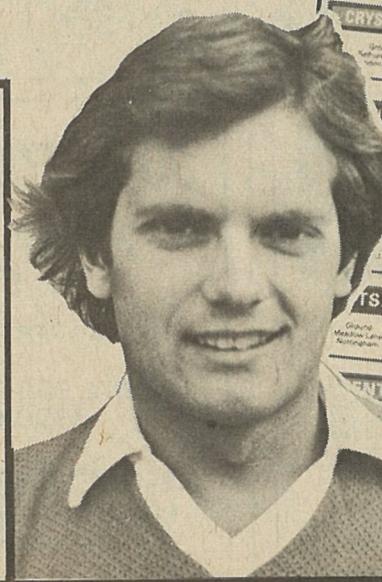
IN COLOUR:

Scotland and Sheffield United team groups + George Best, King of The Aztecs + Focus on Jimmy Case (Liverpool) + Kevin Keegan (Hamburger SV).

FEATURES:

Double-winners manager, Bob Paisley, gives his thoughts on Liverpool's past triumphs and this season's prospects + Big Match Crosstalk between Middlesbrough and Newcastle players + Second absorbing instalment of the Malcolm Macdonald story + West Germany and Borussia Monchengladbach captain Berti Vogts in a special interview + We single out the Scottish players for whom 1977-78 is the crunch season + Club Spotlight on Sheffield United + the first column from SHOOT's new 'signing' Ray Wilkins (right) of Chelsea and England, who will alternate with Andy Gray + articles on many top-flight players + all our usual popular items, such as News Desk, World Wide and Goal Lines.

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BRIGHTON	BRISTOL	COWDENBEATH
Ground: Goldstone Ground, Hove	Ground: Ashton Gate, Bristol	Ground: Cawdor Park, Cowdenbeath
CARLTON	CHARLTON	E. STIRLING
Ground: Norton Park, Carlton	Ground: Valley Parade, London S.E. 17	Ground: Fir Park, East Kilbride
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Ground: Valley Parade, London S.E. 26	Ground: Craven Cottage, London W.6	Ground: Station Park, Forfar
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Ground: Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough	Ground: Hampden Park, Glasgow	Ground: Cuthill Park, Stenhousemuir
NEWCASTLE	TS. C.	
Ground: St. James' Park, Newcastle	Ground: Meadowbank, Nottingham	
NOTTINGHAM FOREST		
Ground: The City, Nottingham		

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compiled by John Pyke



Ground: Pittodrie Stadium
Size of Pitch: 110 x 71 yards
Telephone No: Aberdeen 21428 and 53497

Nickname: The Dons
Colours: Red shirts with white collar and narrow white lines down left side, red shorts and socks with white trimmings.



PEN-PICTURES OF ABERDEEN FIRST TEAM SQUAD

(L. App:— League Appearances; G:— Goals; S:— Substitutes. Figures are for Aberdeen in the Scottish Premier Division for 1976-77 season)

BOBBY CLARK: Starred as an "over age" player in the Scotland Under-21 side in the 1976-77 season. Goalkeeper signed from Queen's Park in 1965 and has 17 full Scottish caps. Ht. 6.0, Wt. 12.6, L.App. 27.

DUNCAN DAVIDSON: Midfielder or striker signed from Lewis Un. in 1973. Ht. 5.8, Wt. 11.3, L.App. 8 and 5 sub. G. 5.

IAN FLEMING: Midfielder signed from Kilmarnock in 1975. Ht. 5.10, Wt. 10.8, L.App. 13 and 4 sub. G. 4.

WILLIE GARNER: Ever-present central-defender last season after signing from Glasgow junior club Campsie Black Watch in 1975. Ht. 6.1, Wt. 13.9, L.App. 36.

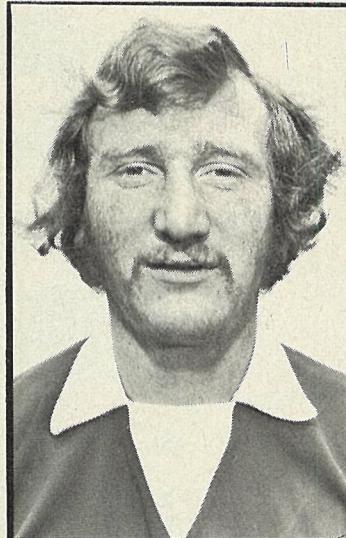
JOE HARPER: Top scorer for The Dons last season and the club will rely on Joe again this term for the bulk of their goals. Cost £50,000 when signed from Hibernian in 1976. Two Scottish

ABERDEEN

Aberdeen (left, dark shorts) in action against Rangers at Ibrox during a Premier Division clash last term. The Dons lost 1-0. Joe Smith (right) signed for the club in 1969. Aberdeen's top goalscorer last season was Joe Harper (far right).

TOP LEAGUE GOALSCORERS IN LAST FIVE SEASONS

1972-73 Drew Jarvie	15
1973-74 Drew Jarvie	13
1974-75 Arthur Graham	11
1975-76 Jocky Scott	14
1976-77 Joe Harper	18



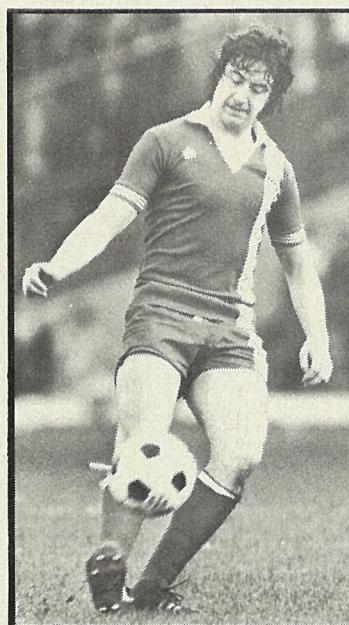
Davie Robb

RECORD VICTORY:
13-0 v Peterhead, February 9th, 1923, Scottish Cup.
RECORD DEFEAT:
2-9 v Dundee, April 17th, 1909.
MOST LEAGUE POINTS:
61 in the season 1935-36.
MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A SEASON:
38 by Benny Yorston, Division One, 1929-30.

A BERDEEN, The Granite City, has been in the football news during the summer. Manager Ally MacLean left to take over as Scotland's team boss from Willie Ormond. In his place came Billy McNeill (left), who won a European Cup winner's medal with Celtic in 1967. McNeill hardly had time to make his manager's seat at Clyde warm when he accepted the challenge at Aberdeen.

Then Leeds offered £140,000 for Arthur Graham and the outstanding left-winger departed for Elland Road, a move that may see another Scottish star, Eddie Gray, operate in midfield with Graham in the number 11 shirt he wore with such skill at Pittodrie.

With Celtic and Rangers almost certain to dominate the League scene, Aberdeen will be hoping to retain the League Cup, while the prospect of seeing their team in Europe again this season will be a big attraction for their fans.



British club to win the European Cup in 1967. Manager of Clyde for a few months before taking over The Dons.

WILLIE MILLER: Club captain and defender signed from Eastercairns in 1972. Nine Scottish Under-23 appearances and one full cap. Has been ever-present for the last three seasons. Ht. 5.10, Wt. 12.2, L.App. 36.

DAVIE ROBB: Midfielder who has spent the summer playing for Tampa Bay Rowdies in America with great success. Signed from Newburgh in 1965. Three Scottish Under-23 appearances and five full caps. Ht. 5.10½, Wt. 12.4, L.App. 6 and 6 sub, G. 1.

DOUG ROUGVIE: Defender signed from Dunfermline Y.C. in 1972. Ht. 6.3, Wt. 12.12, L.App:— 2 and 4 sub, G:— 1.

JOCKY SCOTT: Signed from Dundee in 1975 and spent the summer playing for Seattle Sounders in America. Ht. 5.9, Wt. 11.6, L.App. 13 and 6 sub. G. 3.

JIM SHIRRA: Midfielder signed from Falkirk in October, 1976, and soon settled into the Aberdeen team. Ht. 5.8, Wt. 10.7, L.App:— 20 and 6 sub.

JOE SMITH: Midfielder signed from St. Gregory's in 1969 and has made one Scottish Under-23 appearance. Ht. 5.11½, Wt. 12.7, L. App:— 35, G. 3.

DOMINIC SULLIVAN: Midfielder or striker signed from Clyde in 1976. Two Scottish Under-23 caps. Ht. 5.11, Wt. 10.12, L. App. 28 and 4 sub, G. 3.

Under-23 appearances and three full caps. Ht. 5.8, Wt. 11.9, L.App. 34, G. 18 (including three penalties).

DREW JARVIE: Striker or mid-fielder and second top goalscorer last season. Cost £70,000 when signed from Airdrie in 1972. One Scottish Under-23 appearance and three full caps. Ht. 5.9½, Wt. 11.8, L.App. 18 and 2 sub, G. 9.

STUART KENNEDY: Aberdeen paid Falkirk £40,000 for this defender. Stuart has three Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.11, Wt. 11.5, L.App. 32, G. 1.

ALLY MacLEAN: Goalkeeper signed from Ayr United in 1976. Ht. 5.11, Wt. 11.5, L.App. 9.

CHAS McLELLAND: Defender signed from Eastercairns in 1970. Two Scottish Under-23 appearances. Ht. 5.9½, Wt. 10.3, L.App. 25, G. 1.

BILLY McNEILL: Manager of Aberdeen. Won fame as skipper of the Celtic side that held the Scottish title nine years running. Played in the Celtic side that became the first

ABERDEEN



BACK ROW (left to right): Joe Smith, Duncan Davidson, Stuart Kennedy, Doug Rougvie, Ally Maclean, Bobby Clark, Willie Garner, Dominic Sullivan, Chas McLeland, Neil Cooper.
FRONT ROW: George Campbell, John McMaster, Ian Fleming, Willie Miller, Joe Harper, Drew Jarvie, Jim Shirra.